Mark Jimenez posts ₱1-M bail to avoid jail

Story Below, Column 1

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DUMI LANG BA ANG KAYA NITONG TANGGALIN... BAKA PWEDE ITONG PANG-TANGGAL NG MGA ABUS
GLORIA

'Gloria Labandera' now a soap

By J. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo may soon become more of a household name than she wishes.

If she approves the

GLORIA/ A16

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Mayon folk going home again** NEWS / A4
- **Peso weakness to trim forex** BUSINESS / B1
- **NDF hits killing of Bayan leaders** ACROSS / A12
- **Falun Gong stages mass suicide** WORLD / A9

German, RP gov'ts confirm it's Irene

IRENE and Greggy Araneta: Identities, intentions confirmed.

But failed attempt to launder funds is not a crime in Germany

By Donna S. Cueto

DUSSELDORF, Germany—Both German and Philippine government officials have finally confirmed that Irene Marcos-Araneta went to a Deutsche Bank branch here in February and attempted to transfer Swiss deposits—allegedly consisting of billions of dollars in ill-gotten wealth—into a new account.

The Department of Justice and Malacañang are set to make an announcement after German investigators furnished a seven-member Philippine government delegation that arrived here on June 25 with reported evidence of the alleged money-laundering attempt, delegates said.

The Dusseldorf prosecutor's office, which led the "money laundering" investigation, said that there was "no question" that the Marcos heiress had been in Deutsche Bank and had faxed the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) a letter requesting the fund transfer.

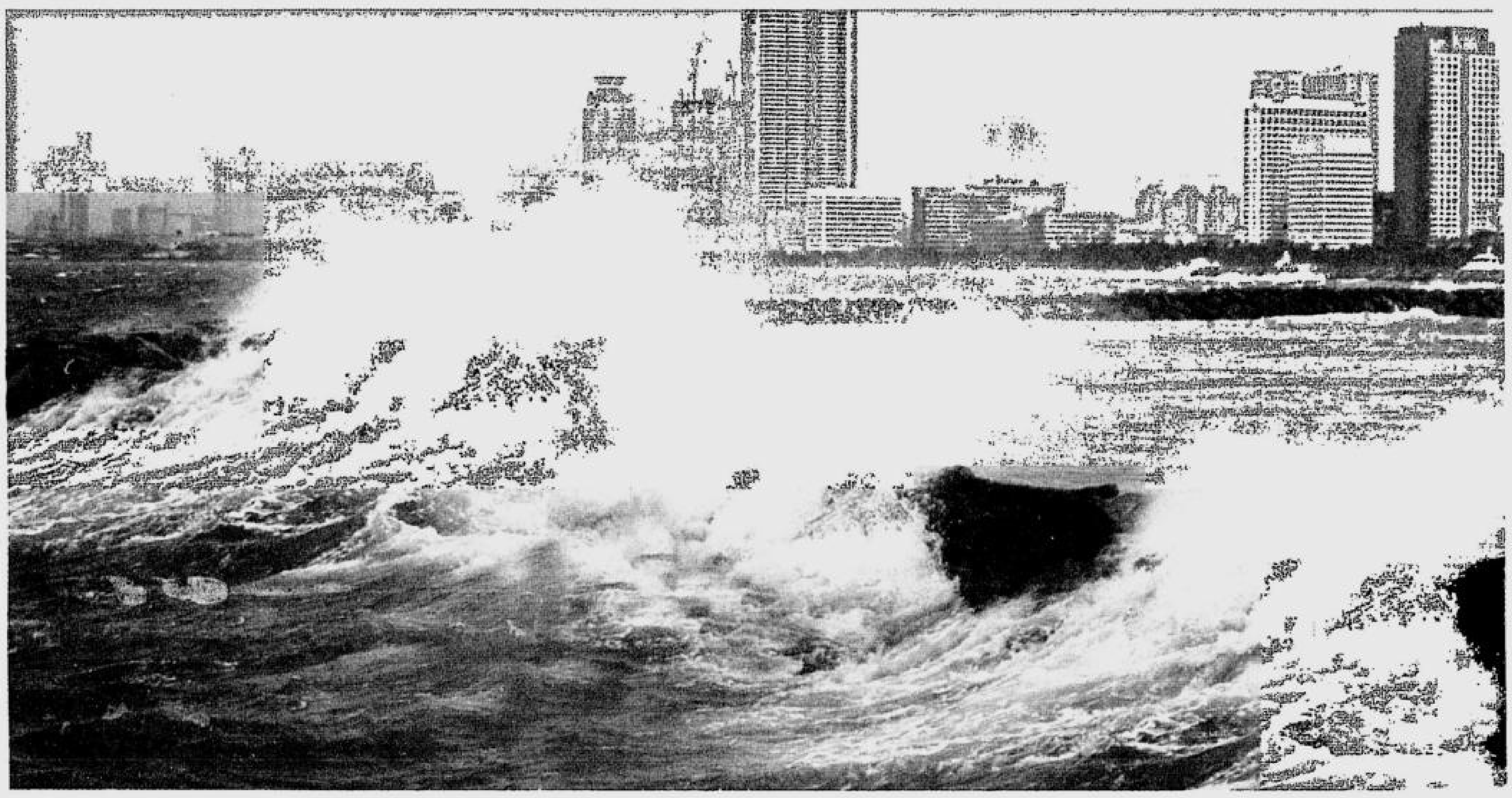
But the prosecutor's office closed the investigation on March 29 because an unsuccessful attempt to transfer funds "is not considered a crime," said Johannes Mocken, spokesperson of the Dusseldorf prosecutor's office.

"It's a fact for us that she came here," Mocken said. It was the first categorical statement from a German official confirming that the Marcos daughter and husband Greggy were in the bank and had attempted to move deposits from UBS AG in Zurich.

Deutsche Bank has authenticated Irene's fax, which passed through its headquarters in Frankfurt. UBS officials, however, will not confirm whether the fax reached Zurich.

"There was a plan (to launder

GERMAN/ A16



MANILA BAY is a frenzy of waves at the height of typhoon Feria, which is expected to move today toward Batanes and three northern provinces, where storm signal No. 3 has been raised.

ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

Storm Feria batters N. Luzon; 5 dead

By the PDI Northern Luzon and Visayas Bureaus

BAGUIO CITY—At least five people were killed in this city and in Cagayan as tropical storm Feria (international code name: Utor) battered Northern Luzon yesterday and Tuesday, reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed.

Feria's strong winds and heavy rains also triggered massive landslides in Baguio and in Nueva Vizcaya, rendering major routes in these areas impassable to all motor vehicles.

The landslides forced the closure of the three major routes to and from Baguio—Kennon Road, Naguilian Road and Marcos Highway.

Dalton Pass, a major link to and from Cagayan Valley, was also closed to traffic after a section of the highway in Barangay Magasawang Kahoy in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, was hit by a landslide.

The eye of the storm was located at 710 kilometers northeast of Manila at mid afternoon yesterday, with sustained maximum winds of 140 km per hour and gusts of up to 170 km per hour, according to the weather bureau.

It is expected to move today toward the Batanes Islands, where, along with three northern provinces, storm signal No. 3 has been raised.

Two people were killed when their house collapsed and plunged down a hill in Barangay Poliwes in this city yesterday morning. Their names were not available at press time.

STORM/ A5

Jimenez posts bail to avoid jail

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Rep. Mark Jimenez posted yesterday a P1-million bail at a city regional trial court, which found probable cause for his arrest so that he could be extradited to the United States.

Judge Guillermo Purganan of the Manila RTC Branch 42 denied the Department of Justice's petition to have Jimenez detained without bail for the duration of the extradition hearings.

He cited the fact that Jimenez expected to serve his constituents in the city's sixth district who elected him congressman last May.

Jimenez, Mario Crespo in real life, was indicted in 1998 by a federal grand jury in Florida for illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party, tax evasion, mail fraud and other offenses.

He later fled to the Philippines and was appointed adviser on Latin American affairs by then President Joseph Estrada.

Jimenez, accompanied by his lawyer Mario Bautista, arrived in court at around 4:30 p.m. and posted the cash bond.

He also surrendered his passport, which was issued by the Philippine

JIMENEZ/ A5

Bentains find Ador story 'credible' but NBI having doubts

By Jerome Aning, Cathy Yamsuan, Christian V. Esguerra and Armand Nocum

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is having doubts about the veracity of the stream of allegations by Angelo Mawanay alias Ador, who claims to be a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

But the family of casino employee Edgar Bentain finds the account of Mawanay that Bentain was abducted and murdered in 1999 "credible."

"Most of his statements are incredible and cannot be collated with present data gathered by the bureau," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday told reporters.

Wycoco said the polygraph test taken by Mawanay the other day neither proved nor disproved that he was telling the truth. The test was inconclusive.

Wycoco lamented that Mawanay had so far failed to show the NBI any identification card or document proving that he was affiliated with the PAOCTF.

Mawanay has claimed that Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former head of the PAOCTF and the Philippine National Police, had plotted to destabilize the administration by kidnapping or assassinating business and political figures.

Mawanay further claimed yesterday that:

- Lacson ordered him to deliver money to "Kabayan" and "Korina," apparently referring to Noli de

BENTAINS/ A16

Ilusorio filed case vs wife 9 days before his death

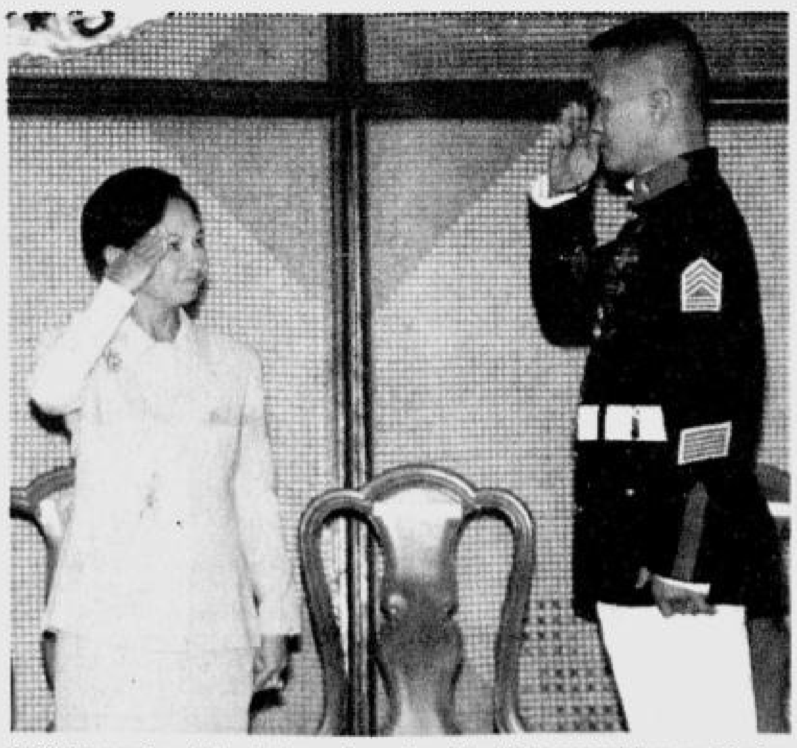
By Jerry Esplanada

AT THE funeral rites for multimillionaire Potenciano T. Ilusorio last Tuesday, a letter from a family member read by a granddaughter of the deceased spoke about grieving not to be able "to provide the peace and dignity he richly deserved. We felt sorry not to have given (in) to his wishes to drop all cases before his death."

Yet, nine days before he died, Ilusorio filed a civil case demanding that his wife Erlinda Kalaw-Ilusorio turn over to him the certificates of titles to seven condominium units that he allegedly owned in Makati City.

In his court petition, Ilusorio had alleged that the money used by Erlinda to acquire the seven condominium units at the 37-story BSA

ILUSORIO/ A5



AFP day again at the Palace where President Macapagal honors Marine Staff Sgt. Jose Rodriguez as one of the Outstanding Filipino Soldiers.

DENNIS SABANGAN

HOSTAGE STORY

Lalaine: We were treated like visitors

By Arlyn dela Cruz

"PAPA, I'm sorry!" were the first words ex-hostage Lalaine Chua said when she embraced her sobbing father Benito Chua Tuesday in Zamboanga City.

In an exclusive interview with this reporter, Lalaine, 14, said she was more worried about her family in Manila than her own fate in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

She said there were nights that she spent weeping and thinking: "What will happen if I'm unable to go back? What will happen to Papa, Mama, and my siblings?"

According to her father, Lalaine is the darling of the family. But despite the attention, he said, she never behaved like a spoiled brat.

Speaking in Filipino, Benito Chua said of his youngest child: "She is thoughtful. If there's fat on my food, she'll say, 'Papa, you're not allowed to eat that.'"

Lalaine said her experience had changed her.

"I came to know myself, that I can endure," she said in Taglish, in a straightforward tone. "I'm more confident now. I also learned to appreciate my family more."

The experience made her realize that one should constantly demonstrate love for one's family.

"It used to be that your family is just there. You didn't know that you should love one another better,

LALAINE/ A16

NAKU... MADAMI PA!

Gov't readies more cases against Erap

By Martin P. Marfil

THE GOVERNMENT plans to file more cases against ousted President Joseph Estrada.

This was announced yesterday by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. who told a press briefing that at least two of the six additional cases they intend to file before the Sandiganbayan are now being finalized.

One of the cases, Gervacio said, concerns allegations that Estrada forced the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System to invest in Belle Corp. sometime in October 1999.

He did not disclose the nature of the second case.

A check by reporters revealed the second case might be connected to allegations made by new Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez that he gave the former president a total of P346 million over a period of time.

"We have the final draft. We are timing this or... it might be timed with the arraignment (of Estrada on July 10)... Four other plunder cases will follow, maybe in a week or two... Two will be expedited," Gervacio said at the briefing.

Gervacio identified the four other cases as those involving the supposed attempted takeover of the Mimosa Leisure Estate, the allegedly anomalous P2.4-billion coastal road project, the 1999 P1.2-billion land case involving El Shaddai's Bro. Mike Velarde, and the last case which would be based on the contents of the "second envelope" at Estrada's impeachment trial.

The "second envelope" is said to contain a list of Estrada's cronies.

The four other cases, Gervacio told reporters, would be filed within two weeks.

The cases are expected to be integrated into the plunder charge that will be heard by the Sandiganbayan's third division.

At the same forum, Garvacio raised the possibility of using the testimony of Jimenez against Estrada. Jimenez is facing extradition to the US on fraud, tax evasion and campaign contribution charges.

"We're using that in the evaluation... it figured very, very prominently," Gervacio said of Jimenez's affidavit.

Aside from Jimenez, the government is eyeing the possibility of using the testimonies of former SSS administrator Carlos Arellano, former GSIS president Federico Pascual and Belle Corp. director William Ocier.

The plunder charge before the Sandiganbayan was based on six cases filed by the Ombudsman.

These include the allegations that Estrada received about P430 million in bribes from jueteng and P130 million from tobacco excise taxes from the province of Ilocos Sur.

They also include allegations that Estrada received P189.7 million in kickbacks from Belle Corp. Investments, that he maintained the P3.2-billion Jose Velarde account and a P500-million trust account at the Equitable-PCIBank, and that he benefited from the BW stock scam.

The cases were filed before the Sandiganbayan on April 4 and his arraignment has been scheduled for July 10.

RP-US Friendship Day anything but friendly

By Jerome Aning

CHANTING slogans against imperialism and capitalism, militant groups yesterday trooped to the United States Embassy on Roxas Boulevard, only to find themselves outnumbered by the police forces mustered there.

The rally was staged to protest the annual observance of Philippine-American Friendship Day, which happens to coincide with the 225th anniversary of American independence.

About 30 protesters, led by the Kilusan Para sa Demokrasya and the Youth for Nationalism and Democracy, were prevented from going through with their plans to hold a program at the embassy gates by about 200 anti-riot policemen.

The group decided to move to the sidewalk of Roxas Boulevard's northbound lane where they proceeded to lambast the annual Fil-Am Friendship Day as "a commemoration of the victory of the world's sole superpower over the Filipino people."

The activists described the friendship between the Philippines and the US as "grossly lopsided."

"The US was never a friend or a hero to Filipinos," said Millet Gobrin-Morante, KPD secretary general. "Friendship with the US is equivalent to iron fists clamped around our necks."

Instead of the traditional burning of the American flag, the protesters presented a short drama depicting what they said Filipinos have suffered from their dealings with the US, such as the bases treaty, parity rights, the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Morante said the Filipino people are on the losing end in its friendship with the US and that only government leaders benefit from collaboration with the Americans.

The groups also castigated the Macapagal administration for complying with conditions set by multilateral financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which they said were US-dominated.

"It is quite disturbing that the government is proud to be begging for scraps of aid from the US," Morante said, recalling President Macapagal's recent announcement of US loans and the sale of military equipment for the modernization of the country's armed forces.

The protesters cited the laws that have been passed or are in the process of being passed because of pressure from US-led international financial institutions, such as the Power Industry Reform Law, the Oil Deregulation Law and the privatization of the National Food Authority.

Morante said they would continue to fight the government for as long as it continues to "sacrifice the future of the Filipino youth to profit-hungry foreign capitalists."

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Court says BIR revamp can continue

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has been granted temporary reprieve to proceed with its reorganization after the Supreme Court stopped a lower court from blocking the revamp.

In an order penned July 2 by Associate Justice Jose A. R. Melo, the high court ordered a Quezon City regional trial court to comment on the petition by BIR officials requesting a temporary restraining order in 10 days.

The high court's directive came after BIR officials filed a civil case against Commissioner Rene Bañez for transferring several of them to other posts.

In that case, it was alleged that Bañez had issued Revenue Travel Assignment Order (RTAO) on May 21, 2001 reassigning the BIR officials.

The reassignments were opposed by the BIR personnel who said that, among other things, the RTAO was issued during the election period.

In their petition, the BIR employees also asked the high court to issue a TRO stopping the revamp.

QC Judge Rose Marie Alonzo-Legasto granted the TRO on June 25 but Bañez contested it and raised the issue before the Supreme Court.

On July 2, Melo issued a TRO but this did not stop the infighting at the tax agency.

Yesterday, members of the Philippine Association of Revenue District Officers (Pardo) filed a case of plunder against Bañez.

In the complaint, the revenue officers alleged that Bañez had conspired with former BIR chief Beethoven Rualo to defraud the government of P1.6 billion. *Martin P. Marfil*

MNLF, MILF aiding Abu, military charges

ISABELA CITY—The military yesterday maintained that the Abu Sayyaf has links to both the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front.

"The fact that the Abu Sayyaf landed in Tuburan, so-called MILF country in this province, and they were able to escape easily from the town could only mean that they are being protected by the MILF," Maj. Alberto Gepilano of Task Force Comet told the INQUIRER.

The same observation was made by AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan yesterday morning in an interview over dzRH.

Adan said the MILF received P500,000 from the bandits to put up a blocking force against pursuing government troops.

As for the MNLF, Adan said members of the erstwhile rebel group have helped the Abu Sayyaf fight the soldiers.

"Our soldiers were hit by bullets in the back and in the side. Sometimes the MNLF tried to mislead them," Adan said.

Gepilano said, however, that not all the members of the MILF were helping the Abu Sayyaf.

"Only a small faction tends to support the ASG," he said.

MILF's role

Ustadz Shariff Mohsin Julabbi, MILF spokesperson for Western Mindanao, said the MILF's role is to ensure the safe release of the hostages.

He said the MILF played a big role in the release of Lalaine Chua and Luis Bautista III on Tuesday.

Adan dismissed Julabbi's claim, however.

"He just wants to look good because they have people helping the Abu Sayyaf," Adan said.

Eid Kabalu, main spokesperson of the MILF, said the military was linking his group to the Abu Sayyaf because it has run out of alibis for its failure to capture the bandits.

"They hit two birds with one stone. They have found an excuse while giving the MILF a bad name," Kabalu said.

Probe MNLF deaths

Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao asked Malacañang to look into the Basilan operation against the Abu Sayyaf where eight MNLF members were killed and five others were wounded.

Misuari, in an interview with Davao City newsmen, said he wanted to find out why his men were dragged into the Abu Sayyaf crisis.

He said he raised this concern with President Macapagal-Arroyo during the symbolic acceptance of medical equipment from Saudi Arabia.

Misuari said the incident could create a bigger problem if not immediately addressed.

Kabalu, meanwhile, confirmed that the MILF was monitoring the conditions of the 22 hostages still in the hands of Abu Sayyaf.

"We are not just focusing our attention on the (plight) of the Dos Palmas hostages but the local hostages as well," Kabalu said. *Julie Alipala-Inot, Allan Nawal and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Sabaya seeking asylum

ARMED Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan yesterday confirmed reports that Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya is seeking asylum in Malaysia.

Adan said Sabaya apparently wants to hie off to a foreign land to enjoy the ransom money he has reportedly collected from the Dos Palmas hostages.

Asked if he was confirming the payment of ransom for the freed hostages, Adan said: "No, we're not confirming that. We are just saying it's a very big possibility."

In an interview in Malacañang, Adan said the military has received reports Sabaya was exploring the possibility of seeking asylum in Malaysia.

"We got information that he has been asking if he has a criminal record in Malaysia. He wants to know if he would be accepted there," he said.

Adan said the Malaysian defense minister who was in town last week had assured him Kuala Lumpur will not let Sabaya in.

"The defense minister said Malaysia does not harbor terrorists so he will not be accepted there," Adan said.

Adan said Sabaya could call his friends anywhere in the world from his satellite phone to make arrangements for an escape.

"It is possible because of reports that they have accumulated a lot of money from ransom. He wants to enjoy (the money) so he will leave the mountains and his men to relax in a foreign country," Adan said.

Adan said the military would "do its best" to prevent Sabaya from leaving the country. *Juliet L. Javellana*

Does 'morning after' pill induce abortion?

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit has ordered the Bureau of Food and Drugs to determine if a so-called "morning after" pill known as Postinor prevents pregnancy by causing an abortion in the patient, as claimed by a pro-life coalition which wants the drug banned in the country.

It has been estimated that Postinor 2 (levonorgestrel) prevents 85 percent of expected pregnancies if used at least 48 hours after unprotected intercourse, and 58 percent if used between 48 and 72 hours after.

But the precise mode of action of the pill is not known, according to pharmaceutical literature on the contraceptive. Emergency hormonal contraception is thought to work mainly by preventing ovulation and fertilization by altering tubal transport of sperm or ova.

However, according to Abay Pamilya counsel Jo Imbong, Postinor, which is registered as a contraceptive, renders a pregnant woman's uterine lining inhospitable to the fertilized egg, thus aborting—rather than simply preventing—early pregnancy.

"Abortion is a criminal offense in the country and the 1987 Constitution protects the life of the unborn child from the moment of conception," Imbong said. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Not me, Saño insists about role in releases

STEF Saño, a.k.a. Cesar Padilla, is persistent in denying reports about his role in the release of hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf.

Saño, an anchorman at Radio Mindanao Network, the station of choice of the Abu Sayyaf, denied he was at the scene of the latest hostage release—that of Lalaine Chua and Luis Bautista III.

Saño also denied knowing the veracity of reports that P6 million was paid for the release of the two hostages.

"I wasn't there. I was never at any release scene. I was at home having breakfast when the two were released," Saño told the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER reported that Saño was at the scene of the release based on a radio report he gave in the morning confirming the release of Chua and Bautista.

He said he was at home when RMN called him up to confirm the release of the hostages.

"Nobody had confirmed the release at the time," he said.

He said he called up Lalaine's mother, Luisa, on her cellular phone and she confirmed that Lalaine had called her up to convey the news of her freedom. *Juliet L. Javellana*

BSP intervenes to stop peso fall

By Clarissa S. Batino

LAST-MINUTE intervention by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday enabled the peso to close at P52.94 against the dollar after it had dropped to a low of P53.10 in the morning.

Traders said the BSP sold about $15 million in the morning and another $15 million in the last 10 minutes of trading at the Philippine Dealing System (PDS).

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters in the morning and again an hour before currency trading ended at the PDS that the BSP would provide "liquidity."

But Buenaventura refused to confirm reports from traders that the BSP had sold dollars through conduit banks.

Asked by reporters whether the BSP had intervened, the BSP governor smiled and said no.

The BSP, said another official, has been sticking to its policy of not revealing its open-market activities.

Aside from its aggressive intervention, the central bank yesterday met with oil companies to convince them not to put any more pressure on the peso by buying their dollar requirements ahead of time.

Instead of hedging in the PDS, the BSP told the oil firms to avail themselves of the central bank's currency risk protection program.

Traders agreed that oil companies and other big multinational firms that bought dollars ahead of their obligations aggravated the shortage in the dollar supply.

Buenaventura admitted that the unresolved peace-and-order situation was causing a supply crunch in the market.

Traders said overseas contract workers and other dollar earners were not selling dollars on the market because they expect the situation to worsen. At the same time, others are buying aggressively now as they expect the peso to further weaken.

"We need to restore confidence in our peace-and-order situation so we could go back to normal spreads over other currencies. We really need the confidence back to help our local currency," Buenaventura said.

The central bank chief pointed out that the unresolved hostage crisis and the spate of kidnappings have adversely affected the local tourism industry.

An economic slowdown in the United States and Japan is also affecting the peso. Because of the slowdown, the flow of foreign direct and portfolio investments into the country is slowing down.

A trader from a foreign bank said the travel advisories put out by countries like the US, Japan and Australia were scaring away not only travelers but also investors.

"The peace-and-order situation is really the root of the problem. It is creating undue panic. That is why we have a supply crunch in the market. Nobody wants to sell dollars but a lot of people want to buy dollars," the trader said.

Buenaventura expressed confidence that the peso would recover.

"People should keep in mind that we were in the same situation before and it corrected itself," he said, referring to the abnormal movements of the peso in the last days of the Estrada administration.

When the Macapagal administration took over in January, the peso strengthened to P47 against the dollar from a historic low of P55.75 to the greenback.

MAMAMAYAN MUNA
HINDI MAMAYA NA!

US spy plane parts flown out via RP

By TJ Burgonio

A RUSSIAN cargo plane carrying parts of a US Navy spy plane out of China made a brief refueling stop at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Tuesday evening.

The Antonov 124 took off for Honolulu, Hawaii, at 12:57 a.m. early the following morning, less than six hours after it landed, airport authorities said.

The cargo plane was carrying the last 40 tons of parts of the American EP-3 Orion that figured in a mid-air collision with a Chinese fighter jet on April 1.

The Chinese jet disappeared and is believed to have crashed into the sea with its pilot on board.

The EP-3, packed with the latest sophisticated spying gear, was forced to land on the Chinese island of Hainan where its 24-man crew was detained for 11 days before being allowed to fly back to the US.

American experts dismantled the plane and packed it into crates to transport it back to the US after Chinese authorities would not allow them to fly it out.

The Americans plan to re-assemble the plane and fly it again, US officials said.

The Russian plane was due to land Wednesday, American independence day, in Honolulu before heading for its final destination—a Lockheed Martin facility in Marietta, Georgia. Lockheed is the builder of the aircraft.

The Antonov was piloted by a Capt. Chokhine. On board were 18 crewmembers.

Local airport officials said the crew was joined by four Russians and two Americans on Tuesday night.

Ground crew personnel were instructed to provide food as well as potable and lavatory water to the plane, which was parked at a remote bay at the airport.

Security appeared lax around the plane, which had only its wingtip and cockpit lights on. *With an AP report*

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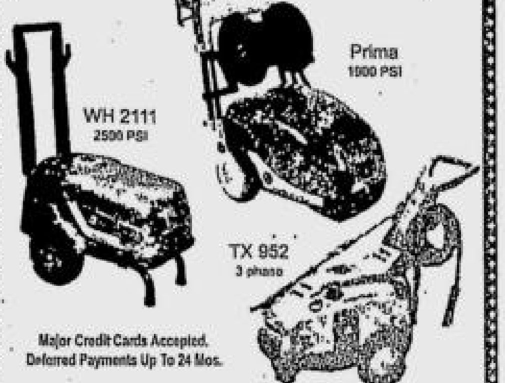

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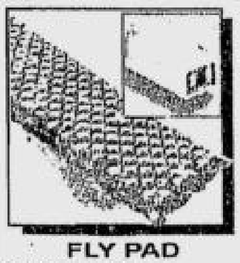

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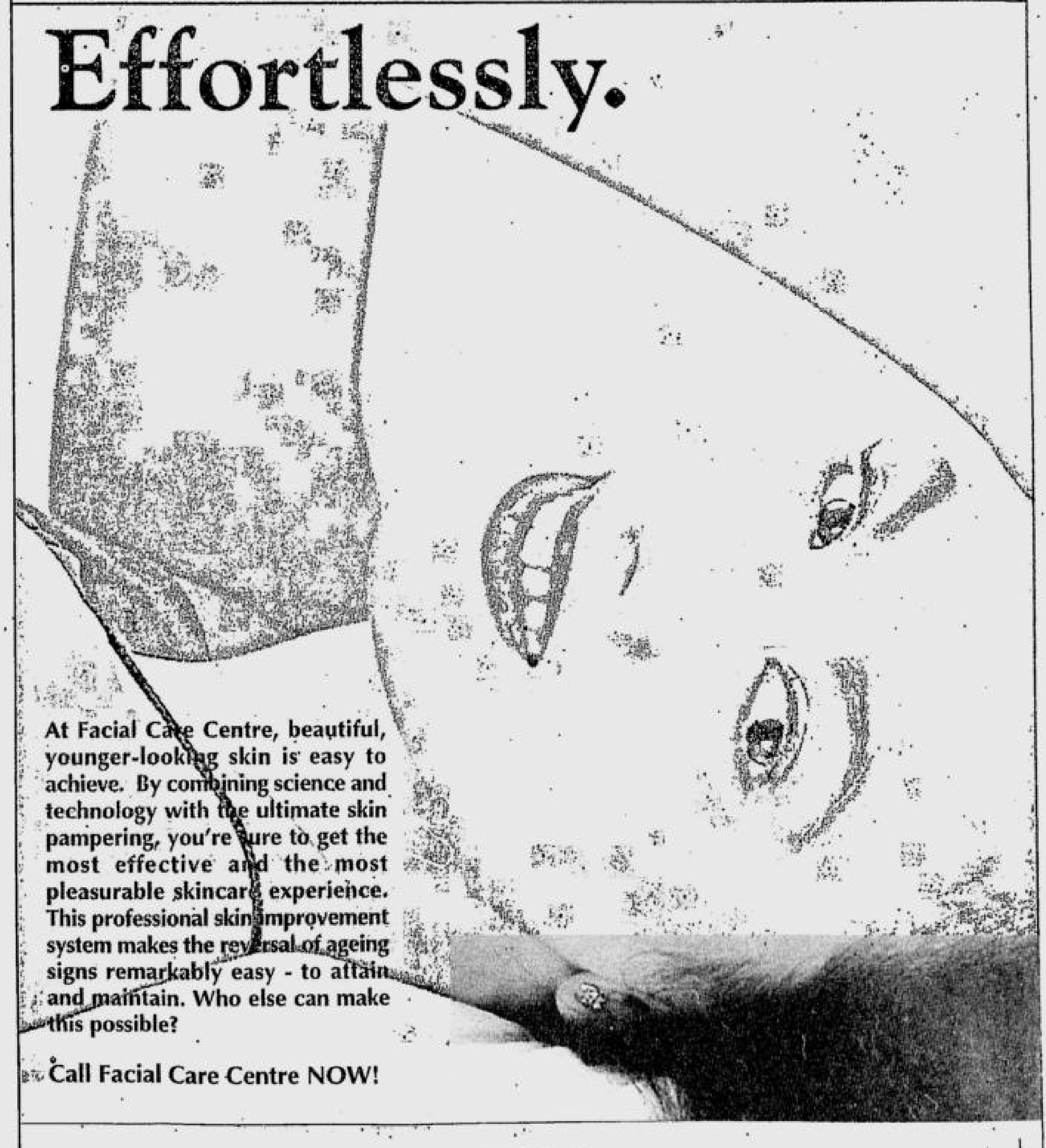

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Quiet Mayon lets residents trickle home

LEGAZPI CITY—Mayon Volcano has ceased erupting and about 25,000 evacuees can return home, government experts said yesterday after a two-week crisis.

However, the civil defense office said typhoon "Feria" was expected to keep 30 schools-turned-evacuation centers full for the time being.

Volcanologists lowered the highest of a five-stage eruption alert to level four, and said those living further than seven kilometers from Mayon's crater may safely return to their homes.

Provincial disaster management chief Cedric Daep said about half of those who had fled their homes after the eruption almost two weeks ago could now go back to their homes in the towns of Daraga, Sto. Domingo and this city.

Daep said about 16,000 residents would have to remain in evacuation camps.

About 60 families from Camalig town, near the foothills of Mayon, have returned home, the social welfare office said.

The cone-shaped mountain exploded into life on June 23, displacing 46,039 people, mostly farmers on surrounding foothills.

No one was killed in the blast, although a child died of illness at an evacuation center.

There are fears that typhoon Feria, which is skirting the north of the country, could bring heavy rains that would result in large volcanic mudflows. But the rain over Mayon has been light so far.

Aviation authorities allowed flights to resume to the Legazpi City airport on Tuesday, but Philippine Airlines said its flights to the city remained suspended because of the typhoon.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said "that hazardous eruptions have ceased."

"Integrating observations over the past few days, a trend of decreasing unrest has become evident and a corresponding reduction in eruption-related hazard is recognized," it said in a bulletin.

Mayon's sulfur-dioxide emissions have decreased, ash has disappeared from the steam rising from the crater and ground deformation has subsided, the institute added.

Phivolcs therefore recommended the reduction of the eight-kilometer extended danger zone in the southeast to seven kilometers so that displaced residents could return to their homes.

It urged those returning home, however, "to be alert and to be prepared to move to higher ground whenever river waters become noticeably swift and muddy," which would suggest the movement of dislodged volcanic debris.

Government volcanologist Ed Villacorte said it would be at least a month before the lower alert level was withdrawn.

But he said residents of areas outside the six-kilometer permanent danger zone around the volcano could soon return home safely.

The civil defense office said the eruption caused agricultural damage worth about P40 million.

Feeding the thousands of evacuees also cost the government at least one million pesos a day, the social welfare office said.

Mayon last erupted in February 2000, displacing 80,000 people. Its most destructive explosion was in 1814, when 1,200 people were killed and an entire town buried in volcanic mud.

Daep said that prolonged and intense rainfall could loosen lahar deposits and hazardous volcanic flows could pass through river channels, like the Mabinit and Buyuan rivers. But other gullies around Mayon may also channel life-threatening lahar, he said.

In Dagupan City, a fisheries official reported that ash from the Mayon eruption had killed 29 *sabalos* (mother milkfish) in land-based tanks at the National Bangus Breeding Station in Tiwi, Albay.

Westly Rosario, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Dagupan Center chief, said the *sabalos* died last week from the Mt. Mayon ash fall that had been carried by the northwest monsoon.

"The ash fall could have suffocated the *sabalos* in the circular tank and the situation was worsened by a power blackout which rendered the tank's aerators useless," said Rosario.

He said this could set back the *bangus* brood stock development in the land-based tanks program in Bicol.

Fortunately, the 70 *sabalos* left in the fish cage at Bacacay, Albay, were not affected by the ash fall.

At the BFAR center here, at least 190 *sabalos* are hatching eggs and another 30 are expected to arrive from the Visayas this month.

The center sells *bangus* fry and fingerlings to the province's fishpond operators. ***AFP with reports from Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

SC upholds bank secrecy in Amari deal

By Martin P. Marfil

THE GOVERNMENT cannot inspect a bank account where about P70 million had been deposited in connection with the controversial deal between the Public Estates Authority and the Amari Coastal Development Bay Corp., according to the Supreme Court that voted 15-0 on the matter.

In a 17-page ruling dated June 27 and written by Associate Justice Bernardo Pardo, the tribunal said the Office of the Ombudsman could inspect a bank account only if there was a pending case before "a court of competent jurisdiction."

"Further, the account must be clearly identified, the inspection limited to the subject matter of the pending case..." it said.

The case stemmed from an investigation launched by the Ombudsman in connection with the 1995 PEA-Amari land deal, which concerned the alleged "virtual giveaway" to a private firm of 1.58 million square meters of reclaimed prime land along Manila Bay.

11 checks

Court records showed that businessman George Trivino purchased 51 manager's checks worth P272.1 million at Traders Royal Bank on May 2 and 3, 1995.

Of the 51 checks, 11 were deposited and credited to an account maintained at the Union Bank of the Philippines Julia Vargas branch.

An inspection was set on May 13, 1998, but this was postponed. On May 26 of the same month, members of the Ombudsman's Fact-Finding and Intelligence Bureau (FFIB) met with Union Bank branch manager Lourdes Marquez to seek permission to examine the checks.

After the examination, the FFIB told Marquez to comply with an Ombudsman order for an "in camera" inspection of the account concerned on June 3, 1998.

But on June 4, Marquez told the Ombudsman that the account in question could not be readily identified, and asked for more time.

In reply, the Ombudsman issued a warning, saying the delay was unjustified and that Marquez could be held for indirect contempt and obstruction.

The next month, the bank manager filed a petition before a regional trial court seeking an injunction, which was denied.

She then filed a motion for reconsideration and tried to fight off the attempt to have her cited for contempt before the Ombudsman. But in both instances, her bid was denied.

On Oct. 14, 1998, the Ombudsman ruled that Marquez should be cited for indirect contempt should she fail to submit the pieces of evidence required.

It was this point that she went to the Supreme Court, where she sought to clarify whether she could be cited for contempt despite the bank secrecy law.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 5, 2001
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Gen 22:1-19**
Gospel: **Mt 9:1-8**

Jesus got back into the boat, crossed the lake again, and came to his hometown. Here they brought a paralyzed man to him, lying on a bed. Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, "Courage, my son! Your sins are forgiven."

Then some teachers of the Law said to themselves, "This man insults God." Jesus was aware of what they were thinking, and said, "Why have you such evil thoughts? Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Stand up and walk?' You must know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He then said to the paralyzed man, "Stand up! Take your stretcher and go home." The man got up, and went home.

When the crowds saw this, they were filled with awe and praised God for giving such power to human beings.

Commentary:

Once again we see Jesus depicted as the new Moses. After crossing the sea he arrives in Israel, his home country. What he finds is not a healthy situation, but one of spiritual insensitiveness and sin, symbolized by a paralyzed person. When Jesus attempts to heal this person by forgiving his sins, he is even criticized by the official interpreters of the law who accuse him of nothing less than blasphemy. Against this grossly inadequate interpretation of the law Jesus demonstrates that he acts with God's authority and heals the person. In doing this he points to the authority of every human being as a child of God to share in God's healing power. The people are amazed and glorify God.

Father, we are often unaware of the healing presence of your Word in our lives. Grant us the faith, which we may walk in the power of your Word.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—**Indirect contempt**—Indirect contempt is one committed out of or not in the presence of the court that tends to belittle, degrade, obstruct or embarrass the court and justice. There is no question that disobedience or resistance to a lawful writ, process, order, judgment or command of a court or injunction granted by a court or judge constitutes indirect contempt. Section 3, Rule 71 of the then Revised Rules of Court provides for the mode of commencing proceedings for indirect contempt. The case of Nazareno v. Barnes interpreted a "written charge" to mean either (1) an order requiring the person to be charged with contempt to show cause why he should not be punished for contempt, be issued by the court, or (2) a petition for contempt by way of a special civil action under Rule 71 be initiated in order for contempt proceedings to prosper. The first procedure applies only where the indirect contempt is committed against a court or judge possessed and clothed with contempt powers. The second, if the contemptuous act was committed not against a court nor a judicial officer with authority to punish for contemptuous acts. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Cañas v. Castigador, G.R. No. 139844, December 15, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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Storm Feria batters N. Luzon; 5 dead

(From page A1)

In Barangay Guisad, 2-year-old Julian Sagandoy was killed when the family home was crushed by a boulder and buried in mud.

Civilians were able to rescue Sagandoy's three-month-old sister, April Joy.

In Cagayan, two men were electrocuted in separate incidents Tuesday night.

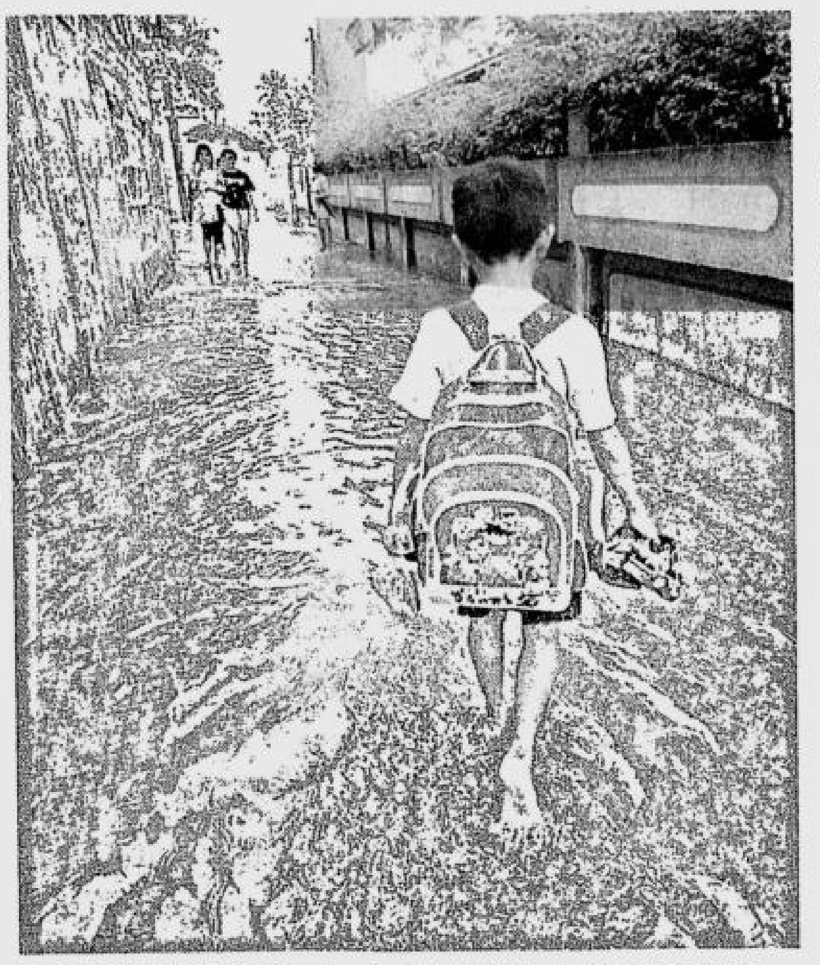
Tricycle driver Rodolfo de Guzman, 45, was hit by a live wire dangling from an electric post in Barangay Casambalangan in Sta. Ana town.

A companion was injured when he tried to pull De Guzman away from the wire.

In Barangay Lugo, also in Sta. Ana, Armando Javier died while changing a light bulb in his house at the height of a downpour.

In the Visayas, at least 550 families were evacuated to safe grounds when strong winds and big waves destroyed 102 houses and damaged 254 others along the coastal villages in Maasin City, Southern Leyte, and in two cities and one town in Negros Occidental.

A power blackout hit Maasin about 1 p.m. yesterday and 11 towns and two cities in Negros Occidental earlier in the day.



HOMEWARD-BOUND: A grade school student in flooded Gazak, Malabon.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

4 kids missing

In Baguio, four children were reported missing in Barangay Dominican, while four families in Barangay Bakakeng Central were moved to safe grounds.

A family was trapped at the City Camp Lagoon, a perennially flood-prone section, where the waters submerged 10 houses.

At this writing, rescue workers were still digging through debris to rescue two children whose house was buried by a landslide in Barangay Aurora Hill, reports from the City Disaster Coordinating Council said.

In Laoag City, four people were rescued from a hut near the Padtan River. They took shelter in the hut after the river swelled.

State of calamity

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias said she had asked the provincial board to declare a state of calamity in three coastal barangays in Maasin, where strong winds and big waves destroyed 50 houses.

She said relief goods had been distributed to 50 families displaced from Barangays Mantahan, Mambajao and Asuncion.

Power was cut off in the entire Maasin starting at 1 p.m. after power lines were found corroded by seawater.

The Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative said power would be restored about 9 p.m. last night.

Big waves beached two barges owned by FF Cruz construction Tuesday night. The vessels were being used in the P109-million expansion of the Maasin City port.

An FF Cruz official, who asked not to be named, said a tugboat was unable to tow the barges to shelter at a nearby island because of the turbulent waters.

In Negros Occidental, at least 500 families were displaced when strong winds and waves destroyed and damaged houses in Valladolid town and the cities of Talisay and Cadiz.

Valladolid was badly hit, with 50 houses destroyed and 250 others damaged. Two houses were destroyed and four were damaged in Talisay and Cadiz.

A power blackout also hit 11 towns and two cities in Negros Occidental yesterday morning, after strong winds toppled electric posts.

The affected towns are Binalbagan, Isabela, Hinigaran, Moises Padilla, La Castellana, Pontevedra, San Enrique, Valladolid, Pulupandan, Escalante, Toboso and Calatrava.

Power was also cut off in the cities of Himamaylan and La Carlota.

In Cebu City, Feria's strong winds and big waves also battered a passenger motor boat and a fishing boat Tuesday night.

The motor boat Santo Niño V, bound for Camotes Island from Danao City, Cebu, was forced to anchor off the Kalamian waters when its rudder post broke off.

Godofredo Mandal, Cebu Coast Guard station commander, said all 17 passengers and crew were rescued by a tugboat.

A fishing boat capsized off the Hilutungan waters in Cordova town past 4 p.m. yesterday.

A passing Superferry vessel rescued the lone fisherman, Toning Obrador.

Floods

Major sections of downtown Baguio were flooded yesterday.

Students who braved the storm to get to school had to wade home as the waters rose to two and a half feet near Burnham Park and the lower section of Session Road.

The floods cut off traffic toward the northeast sections of the city for about four hours. Burnham Lake overflowed, inundating the central Baguio districts.

Classes in all levels in Baguio were suspended, and much of the city was hit by a power outage. Most of the business establishments were closed because of the floods.

Rescue workers documented at least 70 storm-related incidents, mostly landslides.

The Office of Civil Defense reported floods and landslides hitting sections of Apayao, as well as the towns of Lagangilang and San Quintin in Abra.

No casualties were reported.

In Nueva Ecija, Gov. Tomas Joson III suspended work in government offices at noon after storm signal No. 2 was raised there. Classes in elementary and high schools were suspended.

Work in government offices in Nueva Vizcaya was also suspended at noon yesterday.

Power blackouts were also reported in parts of the province. *Reports from Vincent Cabreza, Nathan Alcantara, Desiree Caluza, Frank Cimatu, Estanislao Caldez, Ben Moses Ebreo and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Jani Arnaiz, Carla P. Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; AP*

Ilusorio filed case . . .

(From page A1)

Tower in Legaspi Village, Makati City, came from his personal funds and that the property rightly belonged to him. He had said that despite repeated demands, his wife and their son, Ramon, refused to turn over the titles to him.

Ilusorio, 88, filed the civil case on June 19 jointly with his daughters Sylvia Ilusorio and Ma. Erlinda "Lin" Ilusorio-Bildner before the Makati City Regional Trial Court branch 147.

Ilusorio died on June 28 and was cremated the same day.

The Ilusorio couple had engaged in a long and bitter legal battle that had gone all the way to the Supreme Court. The feud split the family down the middle, with three children—Ramon, Marietta and Shereen—taking the side of their mother and another three—Sylvia, Maximo and Lin—siding with their father.

Ilusorio's assets were conservatively estimated to be worth at least P300 million in 1999.

In 1988, Erlinda had charged that Sylvia and Lin changed her husband's will and put in a clause that would give them free rein over the Ilusorio estate. The daughters had denied the allegations.

The family's assets include several companies, as well as houses, condominium units and prime property in Makati City, Baguio City, Tagaytay City and New York City. Ilusorio once held a controlling interest in the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Company. He also held 216 shares in the Baguio Country Club and actively traded in blue-chip stock at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In their petition before the Makati RTC, Ilusorio and daughters Sylvia and Lin wanted the court to order Erlinda and son Ramon to surrender the condominium certificates of title to Ilusorio.

They also wanted Erlinda and Ramon to turn over to them the rentals for the condominium units.

Power of attorney

The petition said that on Dec. 15, 1995, Ilusorio executed a special power of attorney in favor of his wife to "administer, manage or dispose" of his assets with the provision that this power be exercised in concurrence with Ramon and Lin.

It alleged that Erlinda, as the agent of Ilusorio, purchased several units at BSA Tower using Ilusorio's funds through the Multinational Investment Bancorporation (MIB), which is chaired by Ramon.

Ilusorio had trust accounts with MIB.

Ilusorio had contended that because the money used to acquire the condominium units originated from his personal funds, then he had legal rights over the property.

He also asked the court to order his wife and son "not to sell, transfer, dispose of or encumber the (condominium) units without the knowledge and/or express written consent of the plaintiffs."

On Feb.21, 1997, Erlinda authorized MIB to purchase Unit 2901 of BSA Tower for P5.52 million using her husband's funds.

"Pursuant to the instruction, MIB had entered in 1997 into a contract to sell concerning Unit 2901 with ASB Realty Corp. on behalf of Atty. Ilusorio and Erlinda. On June 21, 1997, MIB, again using funds of Atty. Ilusorio, had likewise entered into another contract to sell with ASB Realty concerning condominium Units 3610, 3611 and 3612. The (same units) were subsequently swapped on March 19, 1998 with six upper penthouses and the exclusive right of easement on parking space numbers 8 and 9 of Podium 3 of the BSA Tower," the late businessman-lawyer claimed.

Jimenez posts bail . . .

(From page A1)

Embassy in Buenos Aires.

The judge ordered that the Bureau of Immigration place Jimenez on its "hold-departure" order.

In a press statement, Bautista said Jimenez would submit himself to the judicial process and would not attempt to flee.

In his four-page order dated July 3, Purganan said he was "not persuaded" by Jimenez's contention that the warrant was unnecessary because he had no intention to flee the country.

"This court is not unmindful of the fact that respondent has the capacity to flee the country, as the fear of flight and the benefits that respondent may deliver to his constituents. The latter appears to be more in consonance with justice and may be considered for all intents and purposes a pressing reason to grant bail," Purganan said.

The judge cited Section 6 of Presidential Decree 1069, which empowers courts to issue arrest warrants if there is a probable cause. It is supported by Section 6, Rule 112 of the Revised Rules of Court.

The defense said that Section 6 of PD 1069, as explained in the Supreme Court ruling in the Secretary of Justice v. Hon. Lantion and Jimenez, only applied in preventing the possible flight of the prospective extraditee.

But the judge said this did not prohibit him from issuing the arrest warrant, citing Section 6, Rule 112 RRC.

He said that under PD 1069, the provisions of the RRC shall apply to extradition cases insofar as practicable and not inconsistent with the summary nature of the proceedings.

PD 1069 is the law that governs extradition. Section 6 states that a judge "may issue warrant for the immediate arrest of the accused . . . if it appears to the presiding judge that the immediate arrest and the temporary detention of the accused will best serve the ends of justice.

"In the instant petitions, the documents sent by the United States government in support of their request for extradition of herein respondent are enough to convince the court of the existence of probable cause to proceed with the hearing against the extraditee," Purganan ruled.

In allowing Jimenez to post bail, the court cited Eduardo and Imelda Rodriguez vs. The Hon. Presiding Judge, RTC Manila, Branch 17, which was decided by the Special 7th Division of the Court of Appeals.

In the case, the judge, who ordered the arrest of the respondent in the extradition case but did not fix bail, was directed by the CA to cease and desist from enforcing the warrant for being violative of the respondent's statutory right to bail.

Purganan ruled that "(w)hether or not the extraditee has the capacity to flee the country or he is feared that he might evade trial is not compelling enough to defeat his substantive right to bail, provided that the offense charges are not punishable by reclusion perpetua."

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OPINION

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Walking the tightrope

EDITORIAL

A GROUP of economists and social scientists from the country's leading universities has come up with a bleak, if well-intentioned, critique of economic and political prospects in the immediate term.

In a document called "Yellow Paper II," the independent group identified areas where political and economic reforms are needed in the post-Estrada era. The paper said the "potential for change made possible" by the second people power upheaval was being squandered but conceded at the same time that the "nation and its leadership were in a precarious position," creating high political risks to reform initiatives.

Short-term threats like the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking and destabilization efforts preoccupy the government as it faces the threat of an unraveling coalition that has been the foundation of its support base, the paper said. "The seeming comeback of traditional politics of accommodation…endangers the current administration's 'new politics'."

"The main danger, however, is the apparent loss of momentum, tempo and will to effect authentic economic political reform," the paper says. "There is a growing cynicism among sectors of society that, Edsa notwithstanding, no major changes are impending. Furthermore, what seems to be the emerging prospect is an agenda of compromise and shrinking options."

One of the presenters of papers, Prof. Emmanuel de Dios of the University of the Philippines School of Economics, identified two areas of focus for reforms; reducing poverty and providing good governance. "Poverty must be addressed as a mainstream concern, not as a side issue," he said.

The paper then criticized the government for failure to push for key reforms and policy directions "to break the impasse."

The focus is correct. But while the paper identified the issues rocking the Macapagal administration and put them in perspective, it referred to a vicious cycle when it said that the government was prone to compromise and faced "shrinking options."

The government's shrinking options emanate from a number of causes. It has low financial resources (a huge deficit) and it faces a slow economic growth. Very finite resources inhibit poverty alleviation and job creation programs which should be helpful in calming urban poor unrest. Law and order problems—such as the rising criminality and the Abu Sayyaf raids—shatter confidence and discourage investment flow. Without investment, there is little growth. So, where does one begin to break the cycle?

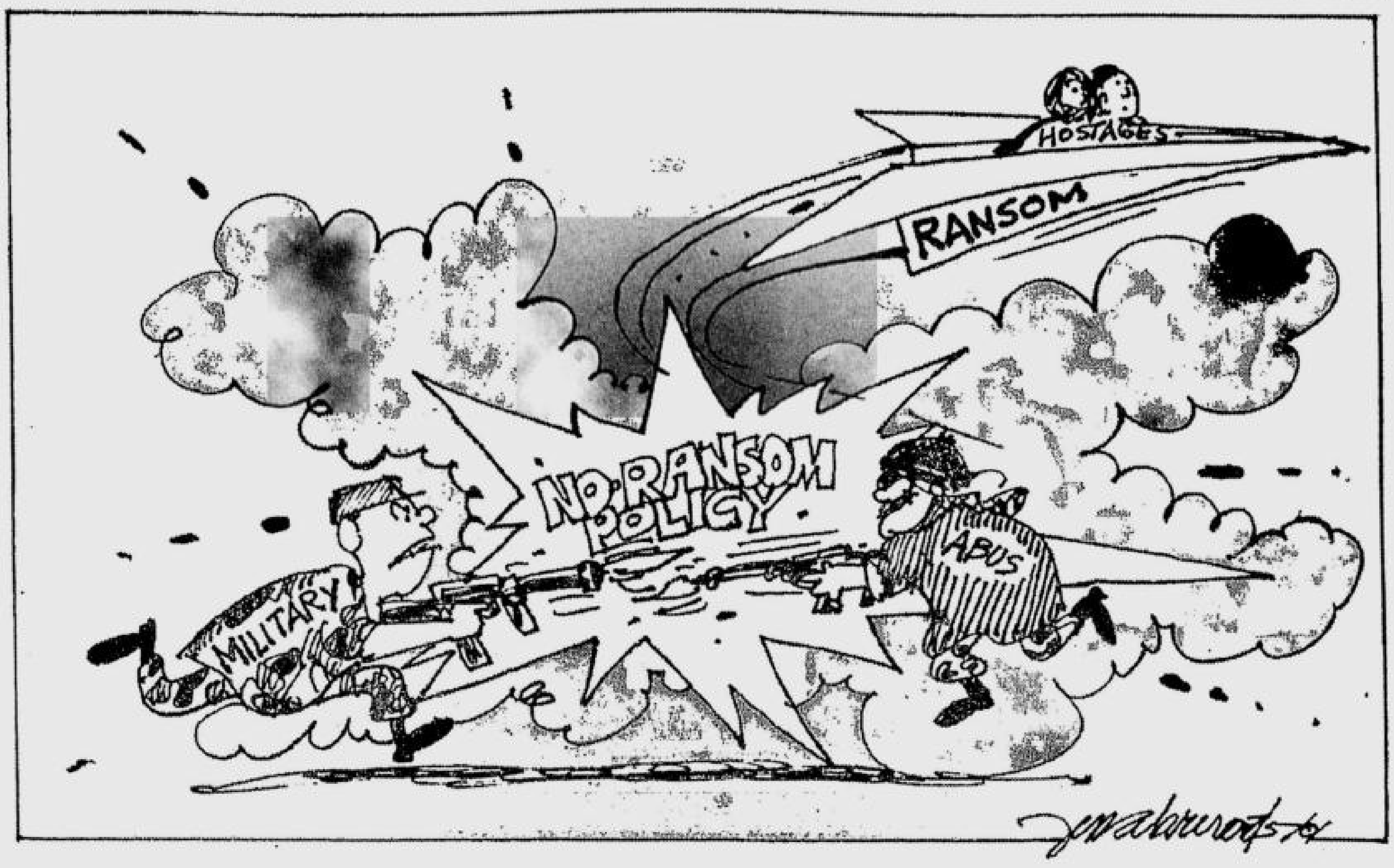
The yellow paper may have pinpointed the problem areas, but it has also highlighted contradictions arising from resource limitations. The Macapagal administration appears to have been forced into making political compromises for fear of provoking another round of civil disorder by Estrada's followers if it gets too tough on him and his people, even if the government does it to implement the principles of accountability of public officials and equal treatment before the law.

When a government has few options, it has to consider the political costs of its decisions. This government rests on soft grounds. Institutions are weak and the economy is parlous. So, initiatives for political or economic reforms are hard to launch.

What the report said, in effect, apart from identifying the problem areas, is that the government has reached a dead-end. It does not say, in definite ways, how we can get out of it. It is a hole with a soft ground in which the more you move, the deeper you sink. The yellow paper is based on hypothetical situations implying ample resources from which to launch reform initiatives. Exercise of political will to push reforms can be inhibited by lack of resources.

In the power restructuring bill, the government exercised political will to get it through the 11th Congress. But that was an extraordinary development. The passage of the bill demonstrated a capacity to get things done, but the capacity has to be demonstrated again in other key areas of reform. With limited options and flexibility, this government appears to have taken a very cautious course in pushing reforms, lest drastic change provoke civil disorder and undermine its public support.

When one walks a tightrope, bold moves are filled with risks. What the paper seems to suggest is that the administration push to the limit its power to test acceptance of its initiatives. But are we prepared to take the consequences of policy showdowns?



Good news for stroke patients?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE is good news for stroke victims. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel inside the brain ruptures or is blocked, causing the affected part of the brain to die and making it unable to send instructions through the nerves to parts of the body like the arms and legs. This results in partial paralysis and disability of the patient.

The first stroke is usually followed by other, more severe strokes. The usual drug regimen is to give the patient blood-thinning drugs, such as aspirin or warfarin, to prevent blood clots from forming and blocking more blood vessels. But in strokes caused by the rupture of a blood vessel, or cerebral hemorrhage, this cannot be done because it could lead to more bleeding.

Stroke victims run a very high risk of another stroke. Few treatments have been proven to reduce this risk.

Now comes the drug, perindopril, an ACE-inhibitor that lowers blood pressure. Blood pressure lowering treatments reduce the risk of further strokes among those with high blood pressure, but there was little evidence of benefit among those with average or below average blood pressure. Perindopril, however, benefits all types of patients with strokes, with or without high blood pressure as well as patients with either cerebral hemorrhage (bleeding) or ischemic stroke (caused by a blocked blood vessel, also called cerebral thrombosis). A study called Progress (for Perindopril Protection against Recurrent Strokes Study) showed that the drug reduced the risk of recurrent strokes by 25 to 50 percent among stroke patients. You must have read news stories about the results of this study in the newspapers.

The results of the study were reported in the European Society of Hypertension Congress in Milan, Italy. The trial included 6,105 patients with a history of any type of stroke or TIA (transient ischemic attack, or "mini-stroke" that does not result in disability) in the five years before the start of the study. The patients came from 172 centers in 10 countries in Europe, Asia and Australia. The results were very encouraging.

It showed that perindopril, administered with its diuretic, indapamide, reduces the risk of further strokes and heart attacks among stroke patients. The benefits were irrespective of the types of stroke or TIA suffered, initial blood pressure or of other drugs being taken. Perindopril plus indapamide even reduced the risk of stroke by three-quarters in patients who had previously suffered from cerebral hemorrhage.

Prof. John Chalmers of the University of Sydney in Australia, which conducted the study said, "This is the single biggest step forward in the treatment of stroke." The results of the study will have important implications for stroke and hypertension guidelines, for regulatory authorities in extending the treatment indication to non-hypertensive patients, for physicians and for stroke patients worldwide.

There are 50 million stroke survivors worldwide. "If this treatment were implemented across the world effectively," Chalmers said, "over half a million strokes could be prevented each year. So the real challenge for us all will be the implementation and translation of these results into real benefits among our patients with stroke."

"Stroke is a huge global health problem—it is the second leading cause of death and one of the leading causes of disability," said the principal investigator of the Progress study, Prof. Stephen MacMahon of the University of Sydney. "The results provide clear evidence of major health pains for these high-risk patients. If the findings were applied widely, many millions of stroke victims worldwide would be spared unnecessary suffering."

"This was the first major trial to include participants from Asia, alongside those from Australasia and Europe. If anything, the results were even more striking among Asian participants. Certainly, the implications are very important for Asian populations given their relatively high burden of stroke," said Dr. Anthony Rodgers of the University of Auckland.

"Patients and physicians should now be aware that stroke victims have a much greater chance of avoiding another stroke or heart attack if their blood pressure is reduced," said Chalmers. "The Progress results will change the way we view stroke treatment. We are looking at a breakthrough that is the statin equivalent for the brain."

Should stroke patients then start popping perindopril pills into their mouths? No. Ask your doctor first. He may want further studies and trials, and to read more literature on the subject. It is not for pregnant or lactating mothers, children and patients with a history of hypersensitivity to perindopril. And there are precautions that must be taken before taking the drug.

Furthermore, the drug has side effects. Among them: cough, fatigue, asthenia, headache, disturbances of mood and/or sleep, taste impairment, epigastric discomfort, nausea, abdominal pain, rash and rarely angioneurotic edema and decreases in hemoglobin, red cells and platelets.

In short, health authorities in the Philippines must issue the proper guidelines for the information of physicians and patients.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Bullfeathers!

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

HAD this whole controversy over pay in government-controlled corporations been limited to presidential appointees, in particular to board members and chief executive officers, I would have preferred, having once had my say in a previous column, to let the matter be. The President is the democratic repository of the Republic's authority, the only nationally elected trustee of its assets. One holds any doubts in check in deference to the presumed superior wisdom of the constitutional order.

But it has not. Many others in the career service who have served in good faith are being affected. The stability of the government-owned financial system is being put in needless peril. And worse, fools and demagogues, who are blatantly ignorant of the facts, have had the despicable effrontery to publicly characterize decent, hardworking professionals in the worst possible way, "moneygrubbing" being the kindest term. It is a shameless triumph of "*pogi* points" over common sense. If the cretins who drafted this memo and who obviously submitted it to the President without the complete staff work required had a little more brains, they would be half-wits.

Unless I missed understanding basics when I took Political Science 11, engaging in the banking business is not a government function. Government cannot have it both ways, wanting to earn the profits made in private industry while being willing to pay only uncompetitive government salaries. Its choices are stark and simple: It can run the business to the ground with populist nostrums, as were MWSS and Napocor. Or it can get out of the business entirely by privatizing its holdings, in this manner raising cash to plug its deficit. Or it can run the business like a business.

If it runs it like a business, then it needs to compete in the marketplace. That includes paying competitive salaries. If Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin thinks that a memorandum order she prepared is sufficient to induce, for example, a senior vice president for information management to stay on at a government salary instead of succumbing to more lucrative offers both here and abroad, she is even more stupid than she looks. If this insult is gratuitous, it is payment in kind for the insults she has heaped on countless "moneygrubbing" professionals by effectively characterizing their hard-earned, industry-based pay as shameless.

So you think this pay is out of line for the banking industry? The newly appointed secretary of finance has a declared statement of net worth of over P300 million, much of it earned through 20 years of work in the banking industry, and he was never CEO of a domestic bank. And why is the cut-off on pay cuts arbitrarily set at SVP level and above? For no logical reason that can be gleaned, except that someone thought it would make good propaganda.

Indeed, salary grades in the Development Bank of the Philippines, for instance, were developed over time using industry comparisons for each level. Its pay in the more senior levels of management is below industry standards. With a structure like this, if any level is deemed outrageous, then so must the level below it, and so forth, down to the lowest salary. Are we then to re-standardize all salaries? Exactly how do you legally do that?

These personnel are not presidential appointees. They are career executives. The most senior have spent up to 40 years rising through the ranks in the bank. They are covered by civil service rules and their salaries cannot be arbitrarily diminished.

These salaries were made competitive after careful study by Congress, which realized that these GFIs, unlike government, are profit centers and have business competitors. Insofar as the career service is concerned, the new order on compensation therefore places the P150 billion in assets of the DBP at risk. The President suggests that if the career SVPs and EVPs don't voluntarily reduce their salaries, she will fire them. Granting she can do this legally, which she cannot, how will their replacements be procured?

Not by promotion. Vice presidents and managers, who already have salaries higher than that of Cabinet members (principally because the salaries of the latter are ridiculous), will not agree to promotion. Once promoted, their salaries—and retirement pay—would be automatically and drastically reduced. And I'd like to see Boncodin write out the ad that seeks to induce seasoned banking career executives in other banks to accept an 80-percent pay cut for the dubious "prestige" of working in a government bank. Good luck.

In brief, the top management of the government financial corporations will be quickly decapitated just to make Boncodin feel better about the pay she is getting.

Look at the facts. The DBP earned a net of P1 billion in 1999. The senior executives were told that if they did better the next year, they would get some modest pay adjustments. The DBP, in the midst of a regional financial crisis, somehow made P1.5 billion net in 2000 for the government that runs it. That didn't include the hundreds of millions more in taxes paid and in reserves against potential bad debts of the past. The DBP has the second lowest (8 percent) ratio of non-performing loans among the big banks. The Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas has called it a model bank. In the last few years, there is no instance of a politically well-connected individual or group that has gotten a loan improperly, although many have tried.

The reward for this performance? Insults and namecalling, and characterizing decent professionals in front of their families and the public at large as shameless and thick-skinned. Perhaps we ought to turn Boncodin's idea around: the government shouldn't think that it has a right to pay slave wages and that professionals are morally obliged to accept this when they have better alternatives.

Boncodin shouldn't have come up with idiotic, insulting and demagogic ideas like this. Who knows? Perhaps we ought to all try whatever it is she's sniffing. But while we are still *compos mentis*, there is no reason to believe government need be in the insurance and banking businesses the way it must be in governance. Privatize or compete. And spare us the bullfeathers.

PPC in Senate pledges unity

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT must be an indication of the popularity of Vice President Teofisto Guingona that the dozens of guests who came to celebrate his 73rd birthday last Tuesday night at the Manila Polo Club cooperated with his family in keeping the party a surprise for him, beginning with President Macapagal. The President advanced the Cabinet meeting to Monday so that nobody would slip and reveal the secret, and everyone could attend the party. Sen. Joker Arroyo, who was assigned to fetch Guingona, took him first to the Manila Golf Club on the pretext of discussing the Senate presidency, to give time for all the guests, including former Presidents Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos, to arrive at the Polo Club. During the speeches, Ms Macapagal said only two sentences, but I suppose those were the ones that mattered: "Four months ago, I chose Tito Guingona to be my Vice President. I have not regretted it since."

* * *

A "missioning mass" was held by the Ateneo de Manila last week to honor Ateneans in government. I must say it's almost as impressive as the UP alumni roster. For instance, our top three officials are Ateneo alumni: President Macapagal, who took her master's degree in economics there; Vice President Guingona, who finished his AB and law there; and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, who finished his law at the Ateneo de Cagayan (now Xavier University). Should Rep. Joe de Venecia win the speakership, he would become another Atenean holding a top government position (he graduated with an AB in journalism). His chief rival, Rep. Butch Abad, is also an Atenean through and through: BS '76 and Law '85. Ex-President Ramos is also an Ateneo alumnus, having gotten his MBA there in 1980 and an honorary degree in 1997. And lest we forget, former President Estrada finished two years of high school at the Ateneo. The Cabinet has its share of Ateneo alumni, among them Secretaries Bert Romulo, Hernando Perez, Dick Gordon and Mar Roxas, and Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao (High School '69). Also counted as Ateneo alumni are SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas and Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez. A large number of Ateneans also serve in the two chambers of Congress. A pundit, in fact, remarked that the government now is divided between UP and the Ateneo alumni, adding that "at least you know whom to blame for the state of affairs."

* * *

For all intents and purposes, the People Power Coalition appears to have been shattered with the recruitment of the Nationalist People's Coalition by De Venecia to his side as he goes for the speakership. Some people feel bad about De Venecia's recruitment of the NPC, founded by Danding Cojuangco, but then, this is really just "*panigurado*"—to ensure that he has the numbers, after some members of the PPC, including some of his own partymates, earlier sided with Abad.

The PPC's disunity in the House has affected the PPC senators who feel they have to prevent the same fate from befalling them. Now the rallying cry among the 12 PPC senators is: stay united; preserve the PPC's purity. The idea is to shut out the eight-member opposition composed of the LDP and the Puwersa ng Masa and keep the top posts for the PPC.

* * *

There are four PPC aspirants for the Senate presidency—Pimentel, Arroyo, Franklin Drilon and Rene Cayetano. To preserve unity, the four have agreed to close ranks behind whoever will get the support of the majority within the coalition, meaning, seven out of 12 votes. It is thought that with these 12 votes, it would be easy to "*sungkit*" one more from the "floating" votes of Ramon Revilla, Robert Jaworski, John Osmeña and Noli de Castro, to get the 13 votes needed to elect the Senate chief. That aspiration, however, may not be very easy to achieve.

* * *

Last Saturday, the four met with President Macapagal and her political people (Pimentel, who is abroad, was represented by his daughter Gwen). The President, who is the titular head of the PPC, was given a quick look at how things stood in the Senate. There are two blocs inside the PPC: the Lakas bloc supporting Cayetano has Juan Flavier, Loren Legarda and Robert Barbers; and the bloc of neophytes Arroyo, Manny Villar, Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan. Four PPC senators are not identified with either group—Drilon, Pimentel, Ramon Magsaysay and Sergio Osmeña—meaning Drilon and Pimentel have no clear allies at the moment, one reason being that most of Drilon's old *barkada* in the LDP are on the other side like Ed Angara, Tessie Oreta and John Osmeña. There was talk earlier that John Osmeña had allied with Pimentel, but this is now unclear. What's clearer is that Sergio Osmeña, who ran under PDP-Laban, is not in Pimentel's camp anymore. Of course there's the possibility that the eight-member opposition, which is pushing for Angara, could swing its support to either Drilon or Pimentel, but this would alienate them from the PPC, something they may not want to do, at least not this early.

* * *

It's probably safe to assume that the Lakas bloc would support Cayetano, though I heard that some of the members are doing so with reluctance because he seems to have what one senator called a "personality problem." On the other hand, the neophyte bloc of Villar seems bent on sticking together, especially after Drilon and Pimentel insisted that seniority should be respected. The neophytes argue that if seniority were to be upheld, Drilon should get the post since he is on his second term while Pimentel, who first became senator in 1987, was out of the chamber from 1992 to 1998. Villar, Arroyo and Recto are not about to concede that they are less experienced than their Senate counterparts since they have served for nine years in the House. Moreover, they point out that 17 of the 35 committees in the Senate are held by first-termers. The neophytes are pushing for Arroyo.

* * *

If Cayetano and Arroyo have their respective blocs supporting them, their bid could be more serious than is being recognized. It would be interesting to watch how these two blocs move since they could determine the outcome of the race. Is there a possibility the two blocs would unite behind, say, Cayetano? I asked a Senate insider. He shook his head, and pointed out that Villar is still nursing a *tampo* over the allegation that Cayetano withheld from his wife, Cynthia Villar, the nomination for the congressional race in Las Piñas until the day before the election. To show how he felt, Villar left for the United States, but not before warning his two younger bloc mates not to cave in to pressure. On the other hand, Arroyo might be too independent-minded for President Macapagal's comfort. A proposal is being floated by the Cayetano camp about power-sharing—one and a half years for him and one and a half years for Arroyo. But will this prosper?

Friendship and betrayal

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVEN after the declaration by President Diosdado Macapagal in the 1960s moving the observance of Independence Day from July 4 to June 12, the Fourth of July was still a big deal for Filipinos. I'm old enough to remember being handed a pair of small paper Philippine and American flags and standing in the soccer field waving the flags in celebration of Philippine-American Friendship Day. Perhaps the fact that our school was founded by American Catholic nuns had something to do with our celebration. But I remember taking part in it with unbridled enthusiasm. A rabid young pro-American, I really believed that the United States, the most powerful country in the world, looked upon our poor country as a special case, a "ward" to be taken under the wing amid the vicissitudes of world politics.

And it seems that Americans, at least among the few who know about our country and our supposed "special relationship," shared this view. In 1986, on a tour with other Filipino journalists covering Cory Aquino's first visit to the United States after Edsa, we met with senior American journalists who wanted to know what we had against the American military bases in the Philippines. "Don't you know that we share a special bond?" asked one editor. "Remember, American soldiers died alongside Filipinos in Corregidor and Bataan."

All I could think of then was the late Senator Diokno's closing words on a documentary on the bases: "Is this what you do to a friend?"

* * *

IN HER column yesterday, Carmen Guerrero Nakpil recounts how Filipinos "celebrated" July 4, 1946, when the American flag was lowered and the Filipino flag was raised, signaling the birth of an independent Philippine republic.

Instead of a wildly cheering populace, the rites at the Luneta were witnessed by a silent and sullen crowd, most of whom were reed-thin and malnourished. All around them Manila lay in ruins, and by Nick Joaquin's estimate, the war and its aftermath signaled the end of civility in our public life, replaced by an "each to his own" philosophy whose consequences we see all around us today.

Perhaps the less-than-heartfelt reception of America's benevolent gift of "independence" also had to do with the fact that Filipinos weren't feeling particularly victorious at the end of the war. The Japanese had been driven out at great cost, including the horrendous loss of civilian lives in the brutal street battles during the "liberation" of Manila. The Filipino political leadership was at war with itself, with many officials imprisoned as suspected "collaborators" while others went on a witch-hunt to sniff out profiteers, spies and traitors.

Most painful of all was the treatment by the American government of the men who, at the beginning of the war, were extolled as "heroes" and "valiant fighting men." The Filipino survivors of Bataan and Corregidor endured the horrendous conditions of the siege of Bataan on half the rations earmarked for Americans, and were the more common targets of Japanese abuse and cruelty during the Death March and in the concentration camps. But if they hoped to be treated as equals of their American comrades after "victory," they were to be bitterly disappointed.

* * *

I RECEIVED two letters in response to a recent column on "Ghost Soldiers," a new book that retells the story of the Bataan debacle and its tragic consequences, as well as the dramatic rescue of American POWs from the biggest POW camp in Cabanatuan.

Rafael Estrada, national commander of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Inc., bemoans that while Americans crave "to leave to posterity the tale of heroism and gallantry of their countrymen," few Filipinos have the "patience and dedication to narrate the glorious moments of our war heroes." He cites the liberation of prisoners from the Los Baños camp (among whom were a number of American Jesuits, including Fr. James Reuter) and the retaking from Japanese control of the Ipo-ipo Dam.

Many Filipinos are unaware that most of the Filipino fighting men in Bataan and Corregidor were youths, callow soldiers barely out of ROTC and basic training. "(A) dramatic display of raw courage by untrained Pinoys who only learned the art of war (by) 'on the job training'," is how Estrada puts it. Today, these young men, who had a first-hand taste of hell so early in their lives, must move about in their old age in the limbo of national amnesia about the war and its meaning.

* * *

ANOTHER veteran, Fernando Mangubat who calls himself "a ghost of World War II," claims the column caused him to "rise from the graveyard of undying anger."

For the last eight years, says Mangubat, he has been "in the thick of the fight for the correction of the injustice committed by the people and government of the United States of America." Mangubat refers to the Rescission Act of 1946, which appropriated $200 million for the rehabilitation of the Philippine army but "imposed an obnoxious and condemnable condition." And this was, that the service rendered by Filipino veterans of World War II "shall not be deemed active service in the Armed Forces of the United States." This effectively stripped the Filipino veterans of any rights, benefits and privileges to which their American comrades were entitled. In an address before the US House of Representatives, Carlos P. Romulo, then the resident commissioner from the Philippine Islands, took exception to the rampant discrimination and declared that the Philippine government "has chosen not to accept the appropriation."

"The continuing failure of the US Congress to correct the injustice committed by the…United States against the Filipino veterans of World War II is a flagrant violation of human rights, a palpable injustice, so obnoxious and so condemnable, which the government of the United States has adamantly refused to correct," Mangubat concludes. Which makes me happy, in a way, that yesterday passed with no great fuss made by present-day Pinoys.

This could happen to you

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I HAD meant to write about the experience, but I thought it looked insignificant when seen in the context of all the violence now going on around us. Why tell a story that would make people more paranoid and fearful? On the other hand, it might move us to do something.

Recently, my friends and I were on our way to a hilltop retreat in La Union when we witnessed some action. Our bus left Cubao at 7:15 a.m. and took a short-cut route via West Avenue. My friend, a professor from UP, and I were seated up front where we had a good view of the road before us.

Then the bus slowed down and stopped in front of Cabalen Restaurant and this is what we saw happen in front of us: Men in civilian clothes and with long firearms emerged from the back of what looked like a Revo Sports Runner or an SUV and stopped what looked like a red Honda Civic. The armed men pulled out its driver who ran away as fast as he could. I think he ran without his slippers on.

Those of us up front watched in horror. It was like a movie. My seatmate hurriedly took out her digital camera but before she could shoot it was all over. But I had my reliable pen and notebook ready. Everything happened in less than a minute.

Some of the armed men then boarded the car they had stopped while the rest boarded their vehicle. We presumed that there were people in that small car and only the driver was made to get out and run for his life. The car doors were slammed shut and the two vehicles zoomed toward Edsa. Our bus moved on and I wanted to tell the driver to follow the car. But he seemed nonchalant. Then we saw the bigger car with the armed men make a U-turn before it reached Edsa. We lost sight of the small red car.

Sayang, I wasn't able to shoot, my friend said. Good thing she didn't. The men would have clearly seen us and rained bullets on the bus' windshield. We were practically gawking at them.

I was able to immediately get in touch via my cell phone with PNP intelligence chief Reynaldo Berroya's neighbor and relate what happened. I also gave the plate number of one of the vehicles. I hope we got the number right, but even if we did, the plates might have been either fake or stolen.

I did not hear or read anything about it after that. Was it a carnapping incident or a drug bust? Was it a hold-up or a kidnap-for-ransom operation? Could someone tell me what that was all about?

Something else happened to award-winning playwright Rene O. Villanueva of "Batibot" fame who just had a heart-bypass operation. Last month he was shot and wounded by young hold-up goons who robbed a Caltex gas station.

I just received via e-mail an account that has details not mentioned in the newspapers. Rene wanted to help some young people who looked like they were being chased. Rene, who was seated near the driver of the "Batibot" service car, asked if they needed help. No, they didn't. They needed a car, a getaway car. And before Rene could unfasten his seatbelt, the guys had everyone out of the car, including Rene who was almost dragged. And they shot him in the face.

But here is the mystery. The people in the vicinity noticed a sack or bundle on the street. "*Itinapon ng mga nakakita sa mga papunta sa ospital, inakalang kanila ito,*" the e-mailed report said. This means the onlookers turned over the bag to those rushing to the hospital. When the bag was opened, voila, there was money.

Well, the police arrived and the first thing they looked for was the bag. For evidence, they said. Later, the police report said: "Evidence recovered: P3,000." E-mail sender Nick Pichay comments: P3,000 can fit into a wallet, one sack of money cannot. Adds he: "*Butas ang pisngi ni* Rene. *Butas ang sikmura ng* driver *ng sasakyan. Paborito ko ang* 'Batibot.' *Kaibigan ko si* Rene. *Wala na akong tiwala sa kabataan. Matagal ko nang isinumpa ang mga pulis.* ___ *inang bayan tong Pilipinas.* ___ you, *sabi ko sa kanya.* Nick."

Rene, I hope you are well enough to write again.

On the solemn side. Farewell to Fr. Nemie Angus, OFM, a true-blue Franciscan whose patience in suffering had edified many. Father Nemie died in his sleep last June 29 at the Franciscan novitiate in Liliw, Laguna. He was only 58. Father Nemie had suffered for several years the aftereffects of a debilitating stroke. I knew Father Nemie briefly through his involvement in environmental concerns when he was still active. I remember that he readily came to bless my home and garden. But physical weakness did not prevent him from spreading cheer and hope. He would send greetings with his awkward signature.

Last Sunday afternoon, I went to the Spanish-era San Pedro Bautista Shrine to say goodbye. Father Nemie was laid in a coffin made of plywood, as was his wish. (Preferably coco lumber, he had said.) Father Nemie had gently told his brothers during his silver jubilee as a Franciscan some years ago: "*Hindi ko ipagpapalit ang aking pagkabaldado sa pagka-sikat ninyo,*" adding that his more than 20 years in the active ministry was insignificant when compared to his rich life as a "disabled."

Father Nemie's example, the funeral homilist said, contrasted with and highlighted the crisis of mediocrity, the crisis in the fraternity, the spiritual vacuum, the lack of concern for the poor, The homilist reminded, and Father Nemie would have guffawed, those religious "*na nagbubuhay binata at dalaga.*" Ouch. He could have added a thing about religious addicted to *telenovelas* and late-night cable TV movies.

At the wake I bumped into a known feminist and entrepreneur who vanished for a while and set up a new Franciscan sisterhood. One of the questions I asked: Have you given up chain-smoking? She said yes. We shared, spoke about the call, the search, the bewilderment, vows, the new lifestyle. There are signs of hope and new growth in the Church.

Speed

YOUNGBLOOD

Skid

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I AM an excellent driver. I learned the principle of driving when I was about 9 years old, although I never actually got behind the wheel until I was 13.

I learned everything about driving from my father. He never actually taught me how to drive. I just watched and observed him every time he drove his car. I watched him every morning when he brought us to school and every time we went for a long drive, usually along the South Superhighway, now called the South Luzon Expressway, which happened to be my favorite during the 1970s and early 1980s. It was there where my brother, a cousin and I experienced how it felt to travel at 185 kph in my dad's 1982 Lancer GSR. Back then, going that fast didn't sound like an idle boast because with fewer cars around, we could even go up to 140 kph even on the national highway from our town in San Jose, Batangas.

My father has an aggressive driving style which he passed on to my brother and me. We all love to drive and, of course, we love cars, especially sports cars and exotic cars.

This passion for cars led our family to buy several kinds, although sports and exotic cars continue to be a fantasy. At one time or another, we had a Volkswagen Beetle, a '70 Mitsubishi Galant, a Mitsubishi Celeste, an '82 Mitsubishi Lancer GSR, a Nissan Stanza Hatchback, an '84 Toyota Sprinter with a 2TG engine, an '84 Nissan Pulsar NSX (this one came with pop-up lamps), a '92 L200 Pick-up, a '93 Honda Civic Esi, an '89 Mercedes-Benz 200E, a '96 Kia Pride and a '98 Isuzu Fuego pick-up. Car magazines are everywhere in our house. Movies showing beautiful cars, heart-stopping chases and spectacular crashes, like "Gone in 60 Seconds," "Mission Impossible," "Cannonball Run," "Ronin" and many more are our favorites. F1 races, rallyes, saloon races and even super bike races keep us glued to the boob tube all the time.

As I said, I first took the wheel when I was 13—without permission from my parents, because the whole family, except me, was out of the country. I drove the Sprinter out of the garage and went to a friend's house. I was so small then—about 4'5" tall—that I had to put a pillow under my butt so that I could see over the dashboard.

During my first trips around town, the police eyed me suspiciously and made several attempts to stop me, but somehow I managed to evade them, usually by pretending that I had not seen them or by turning at the nearest corner. I did not have a driver's license at that time, but they did not have a service vehicle either. And that was a big advantage for me.

When my family arrived from abroad, I immediately announced that I could drive already. Since nothing bad happened while they were away and there wasn't even a scratch on the car, I got away with my announcement without a word of disapproval from anyone.

Of course, my younger brother, filled with interest in my new-found ability, had to try his hand at driving, and soon enough he could manage to do it.

I improved my driving skills through time and experience. I have been driving for almost 17 years now, and I have logged an average of 1,500 kilometers a month for the past 10 years.

There was a time when I felt my adrenaline, skill and confidence were at their peak. That was when I was between 18 and 25. Then, the only way to go for me was fast. I straightened the curves and shortened the straights. I braked late and mastered driving through spaces with only a few centimeters to spare. I broke my dad's speed record by 5 kph when I was 22 in a Civic while racing with a boxy Supra, which I passed at 170 kph. I raced against anyone who picked up my challenge and made all of them eat dust. I had this instinctive need for speed whenever I was driving.

Those who had the chance to ride with me during those years usually froze in their seats although to me everything was just normal. Even the Kia became a racing car whenever I took the wheel. I tinkered with my Civic all the time to add every little bit of torque and horsepower and make it go faster than a scalded cat.

I was unstoppable. Not even my mom could make me slow down. I just turned into a maniac whenever I sat behind the wheel.

Then BOOM! I was stopped dead in my tracks in a most shocking and devastating manner. My brother figured in a vehicular accident and died on the spot. He was 24.

It was 1998, almost three years now. He was driving the Fuego. He collided head-on with an oncoming light truck when he lost control of the pick-up after avoiding a bus. He was driving at a very high speed. And he was not wearing a seatbelt.

He was an excellent driver, too. He drove like me, with but some slight differences. He was even more aggressive and fearless behind the wheel. And he seldom wore a seatbelt.

We would have joined a contest for novice race car drivers had he not died. That was our dream since we were kids: to be race car drivers, to drive really fast cars, compete, push our guts, skills and machines to the limit. But now I guess our dream will just remain a dream forever.

I have my own family now. I do not drive like I used to before my brother's death. I drive a lot more carefully and a lot slower. I have become more considerate of other drivers. I drive in a more conservative and deliberate manner, especially when I am with my wife and our child. Life is too precious to risk giving way to adrenaline rush and danger. It's a lesson I learned from the painful loss of my brother.

Like me, my dad has also changed his driving habits. But one thing remains: our passion for cars. We have a Nissan Frontier pick-up and an L300. My sister drives a Honda City Type Z. My dad drives a '99 Volvo S70 and I drive a BMW 316i.

Skid, 28, is a graduate of De La Salle University and helps manage the family's automotive parts business.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Practice what they preach

"Industrial countries should practice what they preach and open up their economies, especially in areas where developing countries have a clear and demonstrated comparative advantage: agriculture, processed food, textile and clothes and light manufactures."

—International Monetary Fund deputy managing director Eduardo Aninat

Fundamental right

"We are not talking of covering the trial for the sake of coverage but of the people's constitutional right to public information."

—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez seeking the reversal of the Supreme Court's decision to ban the live coverage of deposed President Estrada's trial

Cannon fodder

"We are talking here of the *kanto* boy-types who, if we cannot provide them with emergency employment, will always be available as cannon fodder for political adventurists."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo urging big corporations to hire out-of-school and out-of-work youths

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LETTERS

Too many meetings make gov't inefficient

CONGRATULATIONS to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for abolishing the Cabinet cluster committees. She should go further and cut down the frequency of Cabinet and other meetings to an absolute minimum. The President should instead strengthen her staff support.

There's a story that President John F. Kennedy treated the advice of his White House staff with as much weight, if not more than that, coming from the Cabinet. Robert Kennedy was reported to have explained that Cabinet members got married to the "natives" (career bureaucrats) and are much influenced by them. By relying on career bureaucrats' staff support, Cabinet members often overlook the political implication of policy decisions that the president might regret later on.

For instance, President Macapagal ordered some foreign-assisted projects shelved upon the recommendation by the budget and finance departments for lack of counterpart funds. No staff work was done to determine whether or not there were other ways of implementing those projects, e.g., through the BOT law.

Another example is the President's preoccupation with the Abu Sayyaf. She seems to be getting "band-aid" solutions to the real problem. Lost is the long-term view that by addressing poverty through job-creating projects, ordinary people would turn against the bandits for causing the loss of their livelihood and become the government's best allies.

With the Internet, Cabinet and other meetings should not be held unless absolutely needed and they should be participated in only by those who are directly concerned. It doesn't make sense, for instance, for the President's economic advisers to waste their time battling through horrendous traffic to come to Malacañang and listen to the health secretary's report on the incidence of dengue fever.

Because of endless meetings, many job-creating projects die on the conference table because inter-agency committees cannot meet regularly for lack of quorum. The reason is that some members have overlapping committee meetings. This use of parliamentary procedure in making executive decisions is the biggest stumbling block to improving the efficiency of our government today.—**FRANK WENCESLAO, 375 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City**

The right speaker for the times

OUR legislators are supposed to represent the beliefs, sentiments and interests of our people. Their leader, the speaker of the House of Representatives, should therefore embody and promote our ideals and aspirations.

We reject leaders tainted by and associated with traditional politics. When we mounted People Power 2, we stood up against patronage politics, backroom deals, unprincipled alliances, compromises and questionable, if not corrupt practices.

Sustaining and strengthening the ideals of People Power 2 call for a relentless pursuit of new politics and good governance at all levels of government. New politics calls for program-based politics, a commitment to societal reform and an unwavering adherence to transparency, integrity and honesty in public service.

We hope that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will remain true to her pronouncements that she will strive to promote new politics. We hope that she will not fall back to the old ways of endorsing a *trapo* for House speaker.

We hope that the President will instead break free from this traditional mold, and boldly support new faces as leaders of Congress. One such youthful leader is Rep. Butch Abad. While some of us have had some policy differences with Abad in the past, we have never doubted his personal integrity. We have also witnessed his unstinting support for political and economic reform, people participation and empowerment, asset and social reform, urban and rural development and sustainable development.

We should march on to new politics and governance, and never look back.—**SIGNED BY 33 LEADERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS**

Know your cell phone's serial number

THIS is in connection with the column "As I See It" of Neal H. Cruz on July 3, 2001

To all those who do not know their cell phone serial numbers, just press *#06# and your cell phone serial number will appear. Copy it so that when the cell phone is lost or stolen, you can ask Globe or Smart to block any user even if he changes the SIM card.

I hope Globe and Smart will publicize this to somehow lessen cell phone-snatching.—**ALFONSO CHUA, Sta. Mesa, Manila**

Home is where the heart is

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE OTHER day I saw a woman alighting from a jeep with a bag that had these words cross-stitched, "Home is where the heart is." Unfortunately for some three million Filipino families, that's about it in terms of a home, a place in the heart. These are the families who have to pay rent that consumes so much of their income that their dreams to own a house and lot will have to remain dreams.

Last Tuesday I wrote about the chaotic land titling system we have and how this prevents many Filipinos from acquiring property. I referred to a book by Hernando de Soto, titled "The Mystery of Capital," emphasizing the need to help the poor to acquire property. De Soto says that Western countries started out like many Third World countries today with widespread poverty but were eventually able to develop capitalism by expanding home ownership, both in rural and urban areas. This happens because people can use their property as collateral for bank loans to start new ventures and to allow capital to grow.

De Soto's research included a study of the Philippines and the researchers found that squatters and the urban poor will invest in housing, even if their land is disputed. They estimate that this "untitled real estate" in the Philippines has a value of about $133 billion, seven times the value of total deposits in our commercial banks!

But all this is dead capital because no bank will accept such housing as collateral. That's $133 billion worth of stagnant assets.

As I read De Soto, I realized it was more than the squatters' investments that go to waste. For the legal land owners, a piece of property with squatters is also useless. You can't build on it and you can't use it as collateral with banks. The squatters won't leave, and the landowners are unwilling to give up the land, hoping the land prices will go up. (That of course isn't happening because we're just moving from one crisis to another.) Everyone loses.

There are so many other problems that come out of our system, which do not appear in De Soto's book. Paying rent is like burning money, consuming resources that could have been used for a family's other economic and social investments. I've seen this in other developing countries. If housing is assured, either through low rents or affordable purchase schemes, even low-income families get to afford important perks, like getting a child to learn a musical instrument or buying more books or taking a family vacation.

There are other consequences resulting from this massive disenfranchisement of people's right to a home. A depressed housing sector like we have today, where no one's buying, affects many sectors, from suppliers of construction supplies to the interior decorators. But the ones who suffer the most are again the poor, from whose ranks come the construction workers.

Other losses may not always be as obvious. Many years back when I was handling health projects with the Catholic Church's social action programs, older colleagues warned me it was next to impossible to start health programs in urban poor areas. Without land tenure, they explained, the urban poor were unwilling to "invest" in long-term programs such as health. Why build toilets or organize health groups when you might be ejected next week or next month?

My colleagues were right. Today Metro Manila is one big dump. People don't care about the environment because they have no stake in it. Without a sense of a home, you can't expect people to think of the neighborhood or community, much less the nation.

It's not a hopeless situation. Drive around Tondo and you can tell who owns their homes. These are the areas where militant urban poor organizations were able to fight for land ownership. Just like our subdivisions, these communities are very conscious about their environment, from sanitation concerns to peace and order. The houses are small but they exude the warmth of families proud of their homes.

Even socialist China has recognized the importance of home ownership. In the past, government provided public housing with very low rents. Now they're raising the rents, pointing out to families that with a little more money they can afford monthly amortizations that will eventually lead to ownership of the homes.

It makes sense. Even in China, where home ownership is in the form of a long-term lease, people are encouraged to go for that home because they can pass on the property to their children. This gives them an incentive to save more, to pay the amortizations and to go for home improvements.

I wrote in my last column that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has a chance to leave a lasting legacy by working on housing projects. I am always amazed at how the poor will go, "*Ang laki!*" when they see apartments with a floor area of 40 to 50 square meters. The poor's dreams are so minimal, and yet so beyond their reach.

De Soto makes a good point about the development of capitalism by ensuring people's ownership of a home. But there's more to this than economics. Provide sound housing with green areas for recreation and you create a future for many Filipinos. You'll see crime rates go down as the young grow up in a healthier environment and the adults themselves become more conscious about preventing crime in the neighborhood. You'll see cleaner cities as people maintain and improve their homes. I suspect, too, you'll find productivity going up as people have more incentives to work hard, knowing their money goes toward that house, a place one can return to at the end of the day, a home where the heart is.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila

MESSAGE

I am heartened to be a part of the *7th National Dairy Congress* **of the** *Dairy Confederation of the Philippines.*

We welcome the conduct of this undertaking for the potential benefits it will bring our people and the economy. Concretizing the theme of this convention, "Milk Feeding – An Investment for the Future," is a worthy endeavor that will have an enduring impact on the betterment of the health status of our people particularly the youth.

While you work together to raise the competitiveness of our local dairy industry, you also contribute to our quest to attain food security and modernize the agricultural sector. This will help in ultimately securing our country's position in a liberalizing and globalizing world market. Furthermore, this gathering can be a perfect venue to process developments in recent world contagion affecting your allied sector – the livestock industry. May you use the lessons imparted by this experience to plan and implement programs and projects that will protect our local industries.

In closing, let me extend my sincerest appreciation for your efforts and unwavering commitment to the betterment of the quality of life of the Filipino people. I am confident that together we will be able to successfully face the challenges before us and attain our goal of a sustainable development for all.

I wish you a fruitful Congress and more meaningful undertakings to come!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MANILA
5 July 2001

Theme: Milk Feeding—An Investment for the Future

DAIRYCON holds 7th National Dairy Congress

Date: July 5-6, 2001
Venue: Grand Men Seng Hotel, Magallanes Street, Davao City
Host: Federation of Davao Dairy Farmers' Cooperative

The 7th National Dairy Congress reinforces the focus of the Dairy Confederation of the Philippines (DAIRYCON) and its working partners on milk feeding as an effective tool for improving the nutritional well-being of malnourished school children and pre-schoolers while at the same time providing a steady market for Filipino dairy farmers.

From its inception in 1993 to end-2000, the DAIRYCON, through its member-dairy cooperatives, covered close to 180,000 children in various parts of the country. The milk feeding involved a total of 4.32 million liters of fresh milk valued at some Php173 million. This achievement was made possible in collaboration with Department of Agriculture though the National Dairy Authority (NDA), members of the Congress, other line agencies such as the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and the Department of Health, local government units, non-govenment organizations and other well-meaning entities.

Milk feeding is one of the centerpiece programs under the White Revolution, a multisectoral undertaking of the Department of Agriculture through the NDA and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) aimed at accelerating the development of the Philippine dairy industry.

The 7th National Dairy Congress features presentations on milk feeding initiatives, lectures on dairy related matters, a health and nutrition situationer, a trade exhibit and fellowship activities. It will be participated in by representatives from 72 NDA-assisted member dairy cooperatives, policymakers, educators, nutritionists, processors and distributors, and dairy practitioners from the Asia-Pacific Region.

The line-up of resource persons include Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor; Rep. Ruy Elias Lopez, 3rd District, Davao City; Dr. Leticia Ramos-Shahani, former senator and chair of the Dairy Development Foundation Philippines, Inc. (DDFTI); Philip Goode of the Australian Dairy Corporation; Davao City Mayor Rodrigo R. Duterte and Undersecretary Milagros Fernandez of the Department of Health.

Republic of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

MESSAGE

Congratulations to the officers and members of the Federation of Davao Dairy Farmer's Cooperative (FEDDAFC) for hosting the 7th National Dairy Congress on July 5-6, 2001.

Nutrition, as a basic human right, is essential for the improvement of the quality of life of the people. It is a critical factor in having productive and socially active citizenry. It is in this light that I would like to commend the organizers of this two-day Congress, since this is a good venue for its concerned participants to share their valuable ideas and profound analyses on the country's nutritional problems and programs particularly on the dairy sector. I am certain that this occasion will yield concrete results that will ultimately solve the country's malnutrition problem in general and improve the dairy industry in particular. Hence, the Congress' theme - ***"Milk Feeding – An Investment for the Future"*** – cannot be more apt.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1100
Philippines

MESSAGE

Warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Dairy Confederation of the Philippines (DAIRYCON) on the occasion of your 7th National Dairy Congress on July 5-6, 2001.

Your chosen theme, "Milk Feeding - An Investment for the Future," is consistent with our continuing efforts to provide livelihood opportunities to our farmers and improve the nutritional well-being of our children.

We at the Department of Agriculture, through the National Dairy Authority, fully support the initiatives of the DAIRYCON to raise the productivity and incomes of dairy farmers, augment their base herd, create new market niches, and expand the milk feeding program in terms of beneficiaries and area coverage.

With the help of Divine Providence, we pray that our concerted efforts will result in significant gains, pushing the Philippine dairy industry forward and benefiting all Filipinos, more particularly our children.

Congratulations and more power!
Mabuhay ang DAIRYCON!

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary

MESSAGE

The Dairy Confederation of the Philippines (DAIRYCON) welcomes you to the 7th National Dairy Congress, which has for its theme: "MILK FEEDING—An Investment for the Future". From its 1st National Dairy Congress in 1993, DAIRYCON has been very consistent and persistent in the pursuit of its vision: "A daily glass of fresh milk for every Filipino Child."

DAIRYCON believes that it is the right of every Filipino child to be provided proper nutrition and nothing can be better than a daily glass of fresh milk. A healthy child is assured of a better and competitive future—physically, mentally and spiritually.

DAIRYCON believes that the marginal farmer can make dairying an alternative activity to augment his meager income into a more profitable one to meet his basic obligations to his family needs: healthy food, clothing, shelter and education.

DAIRYCON believes in the leadership and headship of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in prioritizing the MILK FEEDING PROGRAM in her agenda. We are confident that our legislators will pass a bill (before our 8th National Dairy Congress) for the realization of a MILK FEEDING PROGRAM with an initial annual allocation of P300 million.

Mabuhay ang Filipino dairy farmers!

EDUARDO F. PELAEZ
Chair, Dairy Confederation of the Philippines

The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor

Falun Gong stages mass suicide

14 died and 11 survived in Chinese labor camp

BEIJING—Fourteen imprisoned followers of the banned Falun Gong sect committed suicide in a north China labor camp, making ropes from sheets and hanging themselves from bunk beds, a government official said yesterday.

Another 11 followers who also tried to take part in the mass suicide on June 20 were rescued by labor camp guards, said Lan Jingli, a government judicial official in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang.

The reported suicide at Heilongjiang's Wanjia labor camp would be the most deadly involving Falun Gong practitioners since the government banned the spiritual movement in July 1999.

However, Falun Gong blamed camp authorities, saying at least 15 followers—all women—were tortured to death at Wanjia on or around June 20. It cast doubt on the official claim of a mass suicide, saying the victims were watched around the clock.

Lan, office director of the Heilongjiang government's judicial bureau, said camp guards did watch practitioners closely, patrolling every five minutes. But he said the 25 followers took advantage of a gap in patrols to hang themselves from their cell beds with sheets.

"One minute is enough to kill," Lan said. "While 11 of them were immediately rescued by the camp guards, 14 others died."

China's government says Falun Gong is a cult that has led more than 1,600 followers to their deaths, mostly by encouraging practitioners to use meditation instead of medicine to cure medical ailments. Officials claim followers also have killed themselves in the belief they will to go heaven when they die.

Lan accused Falun Gong practitioners overseas on having a hand in the suicide. "Those organizations are using all possible channels to pass on the so-called 'instructions' to the practitioners in the reform camp in order to make them believe that going to heaven after their death is the highest level of practicing," he said. "The mass suicide of June 20 could also be caused through this way."

Falun Gong says its teachings forbid all forms of killing, including suicide. The group disputed government claims that five people who set themselves on fire on Tiananmen Square in Beijing earlier this year were Falun Gong practitioners.

Falun Gong says the government is running a smear campaign against it and that hundreds of practitioners have died of torture and abuse in police custody during the crackdown on the group.

It said the Wanjia labor camp used torture to make practitioners renounce Falun Gong. Guards doused one practitioner with water and shocked her with an electric baton, and threw 50 female followers into cells with male prisoners after they refused to sign statements denouncing the group, the group said.

The government denies that imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners are mistreated.

Lan said Beijing officials ordered labor camps to improve surveillance of imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners following the suicide. Falun Gong followers would now be watched 24 hours a day, he said.

The official confirmation of deaths at Wanjia came after a Hong Kong-based rights group reported Tuesday that 16 Falun Gong practitioners had hung themselves after officials extended their sentences by three to six months because they had staged a hunger strike, breaking camp rules, to protest abuse and beatings.

The group, the Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy, cited the relative of a practitioner who was resuscitated as saying 10 people died. *AP*

400-km walk starts in US

NEW YORK—Falun Gong members began a 400-km walk from New York to Washington on Tuesday to protest the Chinese government's crackdown on the sect. Two hundred Falun Gong members went through the sect's graceful movements before holding a news conference across the street from the Chinese Consulate in Manhattan. About two dozen members and supporters of the sect planned to walk from New York to Washington to draw attention to the persecution of Falun Gong members in China. Some already had started in Boston, and others will join the walk en route, said Matt Kutolowski, another spokesperson. They expect to arrive in Washington in about three weeks. *AP*

Indon graft buster dies in Riyadh

JAKARTA—Indonesia's top anti-corruption crusader has died, officials said yesterday, in what could be a major political blow to President Abdurrahman Wahid ahead of his impeachment.

Attorney General Baharuddin Lopa died Tuesday night after heart surgery in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, the Indonesian Embassy there confirmed. He was 66.

His death throws into doubt graft investigations ordered by Wahid against senior lawmakers who are leading the drive for the president's removal in impeachment hearings due to start next month.

Lopa, who was also a former head of Indonesia's National Human Rights Commission, had denied claims that he had been acting on political motives to save Wahid's presidency.

Nevertheless, the anti-graft drive had been widely regarded as a retaliatory strike by Wahid to force hostile legislators into making a deal to allow him to remain leader. Wahid has denied any wrongdoing in the face of corruption and incompetence charges.

On Monday, an angry Wahid admitted that he had so far failed to reach a compromise with his opponents.

Adding to Wahid's woes has been the refusal by the military and police to back his plan to declare a state of emergency and dissolve the national assembly before it begins deliberations on whether to remove him.

On Tuesday, national assembly chair Amien Rais said impeachment hearings would start on Aug. 1, as scheduled.

Earlier on Tuesday, presidential spokesperson Adhi Massardi announced that Lopa had undergone heart surgery. He said the duties of Lopa, who was appointed in a Cabinet reshuffle on June 1, had been assumed by Deputy Attorney General Suparman, who like many Indonesians uses one name.

Massardi said Lopa had fallen ill during a trip to Saudi Arabia, where he had served as ambassador before being appointed attorney general a month ago. He was in Riyadh to finalize details of his departure from the diplomatic post. *AP*

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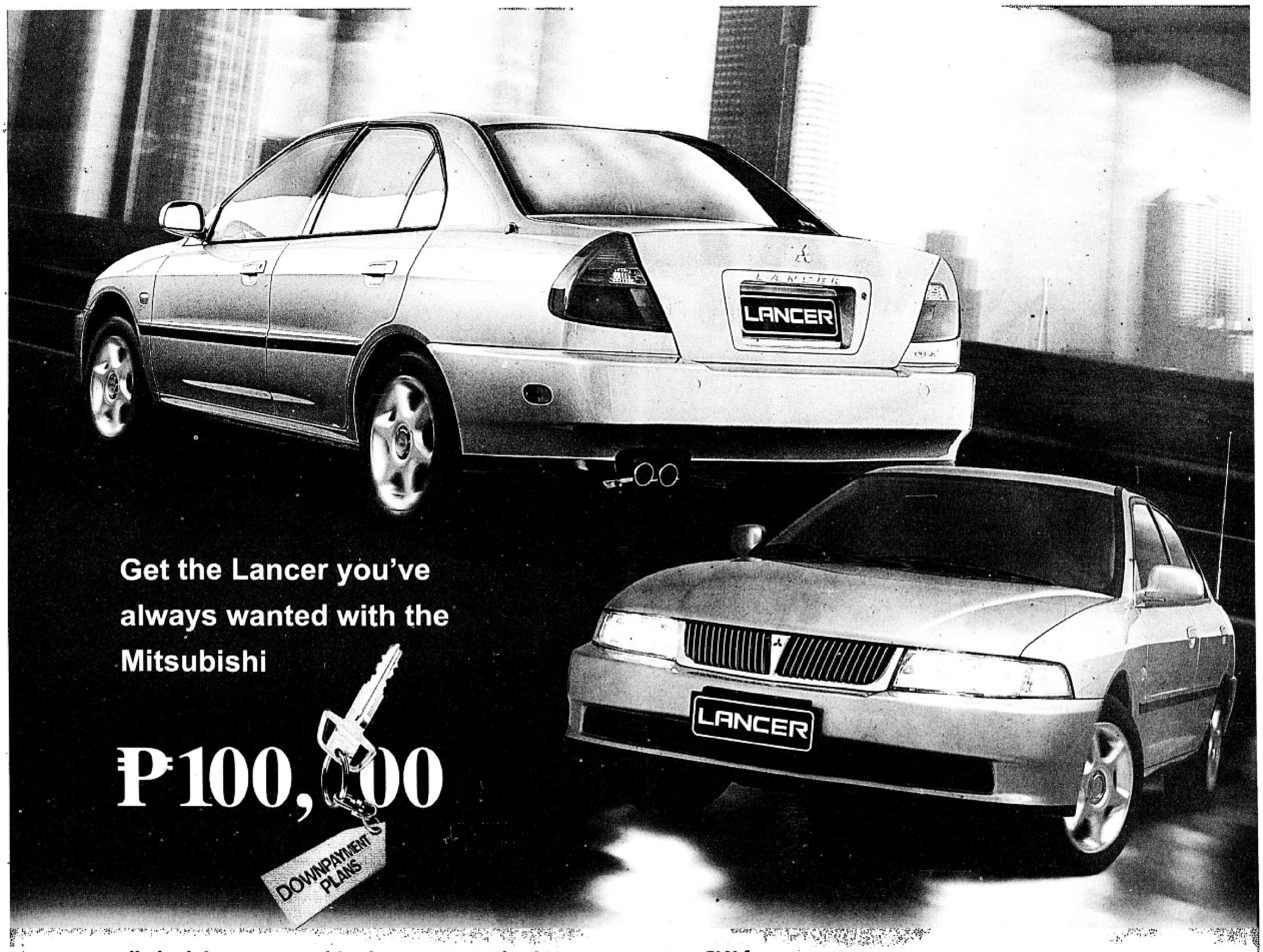

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Russ jet crashes; 145 dead

MOSCOW—All 145 people aboard a Russian airliner crossing Siberia's expanse were killed yesterday when the plane plunged into a forest and burned up after unsuccessful attempts to land in the city of Irkutsk yesterday.

Aviation officials found the two black box flight recorders from the Tu-154 jet and fragments of dozens of bodies yesterday morning, said Vasily Yurchuk, spokesperson for the Emergency Situations Ministry.

Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu, who flew to the site, said the plane's three engines had failed for unknown reasons, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

The plane, belonging to the Vladivostokavia airline, crashed about 30 km outside Irkutsk, which is some 4,200 km east of Moscow. The area lies between Irkutsk and enormous Lake Baikal. There were no reports of casualties among people on the ground.

The plane was carrying 136 passengers and nine crew members, Yurchuk said. But officials said the number aboard could be higher because of Russian airlines' widespread practice of taking unticketed passengers.

Vladimir Rabezhin, the deputy manager of Vladivostokavia, said there were 12 foreigners, most probably from China, aboard the airplane, Itar-Tass said. The passenger list was not to be made public until later in the day.

The plane disappeared from radar screens at 2:10 a.m., while en route from Yekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains to Vladivostok, the major port on Russia's Pacific Coast.

The plane tried twice to land in Irkutsk, where it was to refuel, and crashed while making a third attempt to land, Russian television stations reported. There were no immediate details on the problem that prevented the plane from landing.

A Tu-154 crashed on takeoff from Irkutsk in 1994, killing 124 people. The plane reportedly was overloaded. In 1997, an An-124 transport plane crashed into an Irkutsk apartment building, killing 65 people.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, civil aviation fell into a steep decline as hundreds of small airlines were spun off from the one-time monolithic Aeroflot.

Russia and other former Soviet republics were plagued with air crashes as aircraft maintenance and supervision deteriorated. But in recent years, the number of crashes appeared to have lessened.

Russian President Vladimir Putin was monitoring developments in the crash from the Kremlin and ordered formation of an investigatory commission. The committee is to be headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov, who also has led the investigation of last year's catastrophic sinking of the nuclear submarine Kursk.

The most recent major crash involving a Russian plane was in October 2000, when an Il-18 transporting Russian soldiers crashed in Georgia, killing 83 people.

The three-engine Tupolev 154, first put into commercial service in 1972, is the workhorse of Russia's domestic airlines and widely used throughout the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, as well as in China. *AP*

US spy plane parts arrive in Hawaii

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—Pieces of a disassembled US Navy spy plane arrived in Hawaii, about three months after the aircraft's collision with a Chinese fighter jet sparked a crisis in US-China relations.

The fuselage of the EP-3E and equipment used to dismantle the plane were packed into an Antonov-124 cargo aircraft, which landed at Hickam Air Force Base at 6:09 p.m. Tuesday—about 12 hours after the plane left southern China's Hainan island. The plane stopped in Manila for refueling before departing for Hawaii.

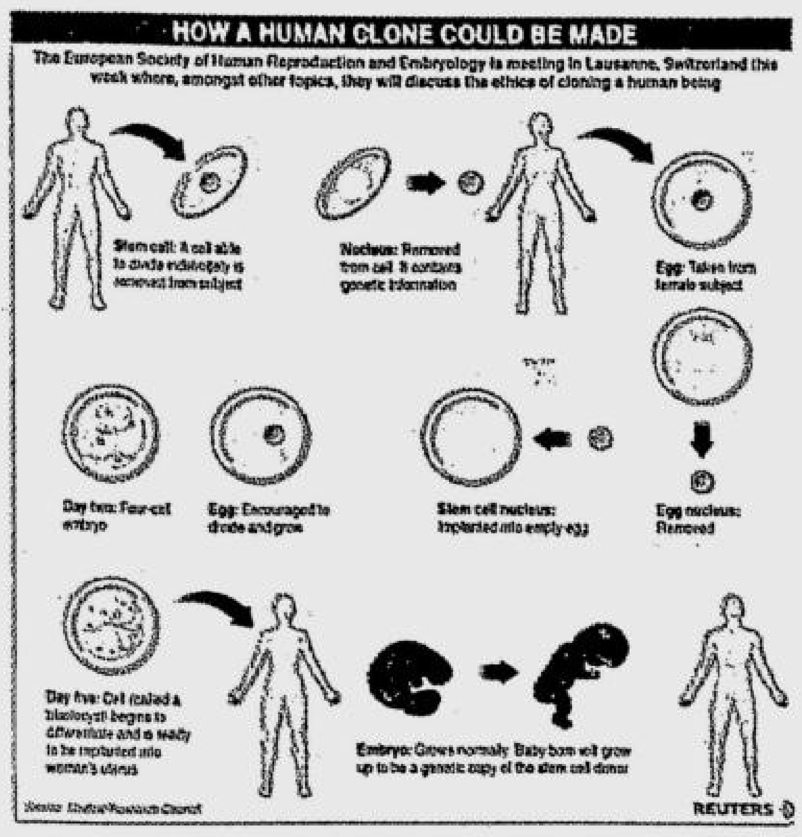
"Things went extremely smoothly," Navy Cmdr. John Fleming of the US Pacific Command in Hawaii said of the departure from China.

"It was a very well-orchestrated operation."

He said civilian technicians were able to finish well before the 25-day target date of July 11 because of ideal weather conditions, lack of mechanical problems and Chinese cooperation. *AP*

HOW A HUMAN CLONE COULD BE MADE

The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology is meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland this week where, amongst other topics, they will discuss the ethics of cloning a human being


Stem cell: A cell able to divide indefinitely is removed from subject
Nucleus: Removed from cell. It contains genetic information
Egg: Taken from female subject
Day two: Four-cell embryo
Egg: Encouraged to divide and grow
Stem cell nucleus: Implanted into empty egg
Egg nucleus: Removed
Day five: Cell (called a blastocyst) begins to differentiate and is ready to be implanted into woman's uterus
Embryo: Grows normally. Baby born will grow up to be a genetic copy of the stem cell donor

Source: Medical Research Council

REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

First 'artificial heart'

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—A patient on the brink of death has received the world's first self-contained artificial heart—a battery-powered device the size of a softball that runs without the need for wires, tubes or hoses sticking out of the chest. Two surgeons from the University of Louisville implanted the titanium and plastic pump during a seven-hour operation at Jewish Hospital on Monday. The hospital said the patient was "awake and responsive" Tuesday and resting comfortably. It refused to release personal details. The patient had been expected to die within a month without the operation, and doctors said they expect the artificial heart to extend the person's life by only about a month. But the device is considered a major step toward improving patients' quality of life. *AP*

Nokor missile program

WASHINGTON—North Korea is going ahead with development of its long-range missile, posing a threat to security in Asia and to America's friends, military forces and interests, the State Department said Tuesday. Last week, according to a senior Bush administration official, North Korea conducted an engine test of the Taepodong-1 missile. That cast doubt on whether the communist government is applying restraint to the program. North Korea promised in September 1999 to suspend flight tests of the long-range missile, and the United States responded by lifting some economic sanctions that had been imposed on the country. Narrowly, North Korea has kept to the bargain by not launching any missiles, said the official, who spoke on Tuesday on condition he would not be identified. North Korea has warned it would resume flight tests if the administration proceeded with a missile shield. *AP*

Japan PM visits Paris

PARIS—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi met his French counterpart on Tuesday, and the leaders agreed that Europe, Japan and the United States need to work together to combat global warming. Jospin and Koizumi said countries would have to act together to convince US President George W. Bush to sign the Kyoto Protocol, an environmental treaty which requires drastic reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, a spokesperson for Jospin's office said. Koizumi met with Bush in Washington before traveling to Europe. The US President has rejected the protocol, saying that while he shares concerns on global warming, he cannot accept mandatory targets for carbon dioxide emissions. The 15-nation European Union said Tuesday it is sending a delegation to Japan and Australia this week to push its view that other industrialized nations should ratify the Kyoto Protocol, despite its rejection by the United States. The EU nations have committed to ratifying the protocol by 2002 and want other nations to sign the deal, which would come into force once adopted by 55 nations. *AP*

Iraqi envoy seeks asylum

UNITED NATIONS—Iraq's deputy ambassador to the United Nations and another senior diplomat in the mission have requested asylum in the United States for themselves and their families, diplomatic and police sources confirmed Tuesday. Police sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, identified one asylum-seeker as Deputy Ambassador Mohammed al-Humaimidi. Senior diplomatic sources said that Fela Hesan al-Rubaie, a senior counselor and the No. 4 official at the mission also made an asylum request. *AP*

Cambodia hotels bombed

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—Bomb explosions rocked two hotels in the capital's main street Wednesday, killing two people and injuring at least seven others, police said. The area was evacuated because of fears that a third bomb might be planted nearby. The first bomb exploded on the first floor of the Hong Kong Hotel on the busy Monivong Boulevard, about an hour after police received an anonymous telephone warning of an impending attack, Phnom Penh police commissioner Gen. Suon Chhengly said. Five people were injured, officials said. A second bomb went off an hour later in a guest room on the top floor of another hotel about 40 meters away, killing a female housekeeper and another hotel employee, Suon Chhengly said. *AP*

Dutch crown prince gets OK

THE HAGUE—The Dutch parliament gave its approval Tuesday to the wedding of the crown prince with his Argentina-born fiancée, though it's still not clear if her future title will be queen or princess. A joint session of the two houses of parliament adopted a government bill authorizing the wedding of Queen Beatrix's oldest son Willem-Alexander to Maxima Zorreguieta Feb. 2 in Amsterdam. The bill is required by the Constitution for a member of the royal family who is in line for succession. *AP*

Princess Diana's garden

LONDON—British flower enthusiasts are planning to create what they say will be the world's largest rose garden to honor the late Princess Diana, they announced Tuesday. The two-hectare garden, expected to cost $28 million, will open in 2003 as part of the planned 20-hectare Royal National Rose Garden in St. Albans, a London suburb. *AP*

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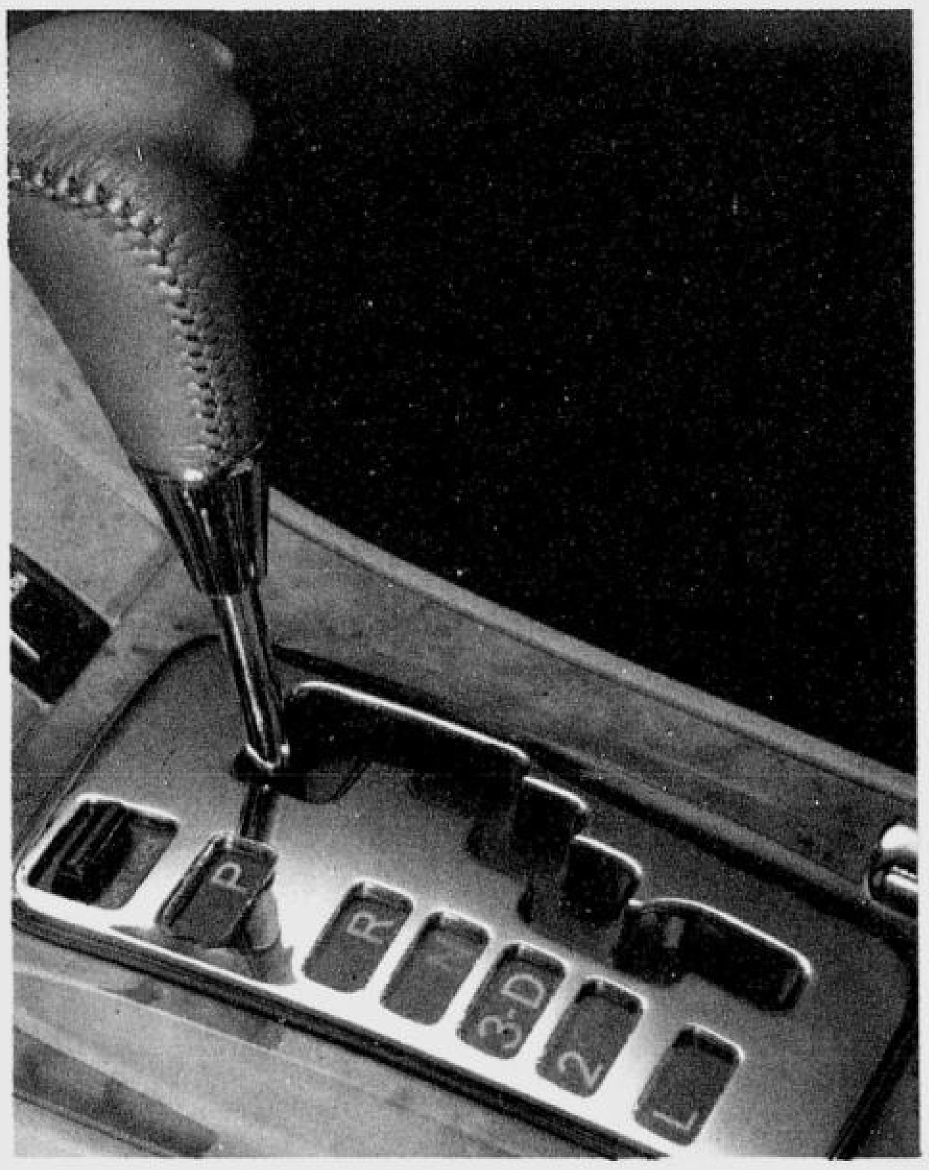
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Jobless folk keep new mayor busy

DUMAGUETE CITY—When jobs are scarce, people, including residents of this city, turn to the country's biggest employer—the government.

New Mayor Agustin Perdices found this problem on his desk on his first day in office.

Letters from residents applying for jobs swamped him.

"I had anticipated that (because) many people are hard up these days," Perdices told the INQUIRER.

The jobseekers, however, had to be turned away because Perdices extended the contracts of casual employees by a month.

He said he would still study whether the city government could afford more employees.

There's still hope for the unemployed of this city, however. Perdices said the city may hire workers on a per need basis.

Some people hired earlier on "job orders" are facing termination, though.

Perdices said the answer to unemployment could lie in livelihood projects, which he said the city would give priority to.

Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

NDF condemns killings of Bayan Muna leaders

DAVAO CITY—The communist-led National Democratic Front has denounced the abduction and killing of two members of a left-wing party-list group, saying it has "poisoned the climate for the peace talks."

Luis Jalandoni, chair of the NDF negotiating panel, in a press statement branded the abduction and murders of Roberto Nepa and Carmenia Abatan, both officials of Bayan Muna in Davao del Norte as evidence of the government's disregard for human rights.

Nepa and Abatan were Bayan Muna's vice chair and auditor in Talaingod, Davao del Norte. Jalandoni said Nepa "was lured to a house by Rico Villanueva, a known military intelligence agent."

"Five days later, her body was discovered by villagers in a remote area of Km 31," Jalandoni said.

Abatan, along with two others, had been missing since June 23.

Earlier, three other Bayan Muna members in Albay, Kalinga and Mindoro were killed. The killings remain unsolved.

Jalandoni said the latest murders "bring to 15 the number of human rights violations inflicted upon Bayan Muna members."

"(The killing of Nepa and Abatan), is a part of the increasing evidence of a pattern of utter lack of respect for human rights under the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo," Jalandoni said.

He said "such increasing cases of human rights violations by the military and police poison the atmosphere for peace negotiations."

Jalandoni said the violations are "indicative of bad faith," which has a "negative impact" on confidence building for the two panels.

Jalandoni, in a July 3 letter to Silvestre Bello, the government chief negotiator, also demanded that those involved in the killings be investigated and held responsible.

Peace negotiations between the government and communist rebels were stalled after the death of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo. Communist guerrillas owned up the killing.

The government strongly protested Aguinaldo's death but the NDF said the killing was the underground movement's way of bringing the slain congressman to justice for past crimes against the people.

The government demanded that the NPA stop the killings, which the rebel group claimed are part of its effort to extract justice for helpless victims of abuses.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Quarrying in Batangas' protected river stopped

BATANGAS CITY—City government officials have revoked the license of a quarry operator at the protected Calumpang River here.

The revocation order came amidst protests and was also prompted after the INQUIRER published on June 23 a story about the 40-year-old illegal quarry that has endangered the lives of the riverbank's residents.

In their complaints, residents near the riverbanks headed by Ray Edonga of Sitio Duluhan, Barangay Cuta expressed their fear that a catastrophe similar to what occurred after a typhoon in 1926 might happen again if the quarrying is not stopped.

The 1926 calamity reportedly killed about 3,000 residents when the Calumpang River overflowed and submerged the entire city under water for weeks.

The city government, through legal officer Teodulfo Deguito ordered a stop to the quarrying and revoked the operator's business permit issued on May 2, 2001.

City Licensing Officer II Boy Hidalgo also denied quarry operator Jose Vicente Tarnate's request for an endorsement to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) stating that the Tarnate Enterprise, which has been quarrying in Calumpang River for 40 years, was only conducting a dredging operation.

This, after the Penro prohibited the quarry from continuing its operation. Hidalgo said Tarnate requested an endorsement from the city licensing office that would prove he is only dredging the river.

"We all know that he (Tarnate) is not dredging the river. He has been quarrying it for so long now, and it has got to stop," Hidalgo said. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Gay bar raided on gay day eve

BAGUIO CITY—The police decided to end Gay Pride Month here by raiding the new gay bar in town.

Twenty-three "macho dancers" working at the Coco Banana along Naguilian Road here were arrested Friday night but were later released.

Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, Baguio police director, said they raided Coco Banana after receiving tips from "intelligence sources" that lewd shows were being performed there. Police, however, failed to witness the show when the raid was conducted, reports said.

But the police still arrested the dancers for working without permits.

They were later released after the Coco Banana management said their working papers were being processed.

The police, however, again raided the establishment on Sunday after they discovered that the bar has no business permit.

The bar, however, was allowed to operate after its management assured the police that the permit is being processed. The bar started operating only last month.

But gay rights activists in the city said the police raid on the establishment was "uncalled for."

Dane Ducayag, founding member of the Gays and Lesbians for the Immediate Tsugi of Erap (Galit–Erap), said the raid was the police's way of harassing the owners of the club.

"Why do the police allow (the operations of) girlie bars when they cannot allow any gay bar to operate?" Ducayag told the INQUIRER.

Ducayag, however, believed that the raid that was timed on the eve of the Gay Pride parade was not meant to spoil the celebration. The parade was held on Saturday and it culminated the Gay Pride month celebrated yearly in June.

"The raid was purely coincidental. The police may have no knowledge what Gay Pride is. In fact not even the other gays in Baguio know that it is their day to celebrate because they were not informed about it," he said.

Members of the Lesbians for National Democracy (Lesbond), a group of gays and lesbians based here, said if the police could prove that the gay bar has been staging lewd shows and exploiting minors, then the police should go after its operators.

"But we just hope that the police raided the bar not for the oppression and repression of gays. It was also ironic that an incident like this happened during the gay pride month," said Julie Palaganas, Lesbond spokesperson.

"We are against all forms of 'commodification,' but if the raid showed that it was a case of extortion and homophobia, then we condemn it," she said. *Desiree Caluza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will continue to experience stormy weather and its coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The rest of Luzon will have rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas, while Western Visayas will have monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 28° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 19° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 29° Lo 22°	Laoag Hi 29° Lo 23°
Clark Zone Hi 28° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 26° Lo 20°	Legazpi Hi 29° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 29° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 30° Lo 23°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 24°	Cebu Hi 31° Lo 24°	Tacloban Hi 30° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 31° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 30° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 31° Lo 22°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/05/01

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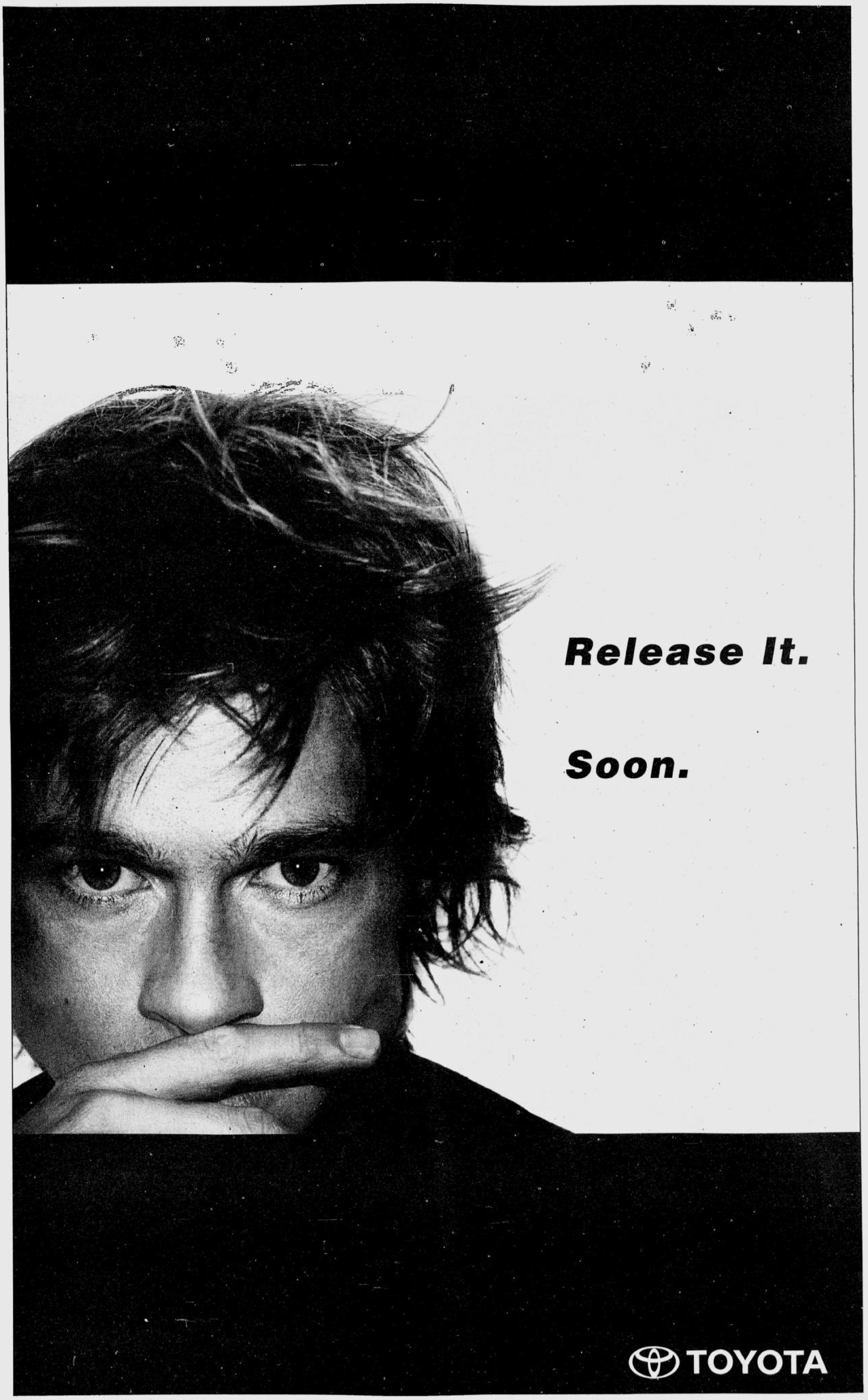
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German, RP gov'ts confirm it's Irene

(From page A1)

money) maybe, but (UBS) did not act. We had no choice (but to close the case)," Mocken told the INQUIRER.

In the course of its investigation, the prosecutor's office authenticated copies of the passports of Irene, her husband Greggy, close Marcos friend Edna Camcam and her son, and two American businessmen who were allegedly part of a money-sharing deal. All opened bank accounts in Deutsche Bank around the same time as Irene.

The investigators also confirmed that Irene and her party were captured on video taken by a bank surveillance camera.

After the Philippine delegation reviewed the evidence in the case, its members were also convinced that Irene and her party were involved in an alleged attempt to launder Swiss funds through Germany, delegates said.

But Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee, who led the delegation, said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez would make the official statements about the case.

The Aranetas' trip was first exposed in an INQUIRER series in March, based on bank records obtained by Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi.

'Ready to shoot'

The Germans opened the investigation after Deutsche Bank notified authorities about the transaction on Feb. 16, four days after Irene opened her account.

"Deutsche Bank said there might be a crime here," Mocken said.

Both the Landeskriminalamt, a police criminal investigation office, and Deutsche Bank have submitted reports backed by evidence to the prosecutor's office verifying accounts of Irene and her companions' entry to Germany and their opening of accounts at the bank.

But the German prosecutor in charge of the case, Kersten Noll, could not consider Irene's attempt to transfer her alleged deposits in UBS to Deutsche Bank a criminal act, he added.

No funds were ever transferred to Irene's new account, and Deutsche Bank closed Account No. 7690779 after a few weeks.

'Preparing to commit crime'

Although she executed all the necessary bank statements apparently "preparing" to transfer alleged ill-gotten wealth, the transactions themselves were not criminal acts, Mocken said.

He likened the situation to a person about to commit murder, standing in a corner with a gun, ready to shoot. "It's an act of preparation," he said.

Under German law, conspiracy to commit a crime is not a crime, he said.

But according to Jacobi's lawyer, David Chaikin, a former senior fraud officer of the Australian government and expert on anti-money laundering, Irene's instructions would be considered a "criminal attempt" in other countries.

"Anywhere else in the world, that would be an attempt," Chaikin said referring to Irene's faxed instructions to UBS to immediately "close all my accounts" there and transfer the deposits to Deutsche Bank.

Felix Dorr, a German law and anti-money laundering expert, told the German weekly Die Zeit: "What more could somebody do to instruct the transfer of money?"

But he also said that "attempted money laundering" is very rare in Germany, and difficult to prove.

Higher rungs

Sources here told the INQUIRER that Irene's transactions in Dusseldorf were known to officials on the higher rungs of the German government, which is concerned about money-laundering activities of criminal organizations.

Irene opened the account on Feb. 12. On Feb. 14, she specifically instructed UBS AG in Zurich to close her accounts "including but not limited to all accounts and sub accounts under my client account number 885931."

Based on documents compiled by Jacobi, Irene's 885931 accounts allegedly contained $13.2 billion as of June 1998, but were later transferred to accounts in Liechtenstein and elsewhere in 1999.

Based on her letters executed in Deutsche Bank in the presence of a bank official there, Irene apparently believed she still had funds to transfer as of February this year.

In earlier public statements, however, the Marcoses and UBS both denied the existence of Marcos accounts in that bank.

Jacobi, who had been pursuing the hidden Marcos Swiss funds since 1989, notified German anti-money laundering authorities about the alleged plan of the Aranetas to launder Swiss funds before February.

When the Aranetas opened the accounts, the authorities were monitoring their moves.

After the INQUIRER published details of the "sting operation," one of the Americans whom Jacobi accused of being part of the alleged money-sharing deal filed a suit against the Australian in the United States, claiming that he swindled him in an alleged scam to retrieve Marcos monies.

Swiss silent

Deutsche Bank closed Irene's accounts, and those of her husband, Greggy, Edna Camcam, and their American partners Hank Hutcherson III and Curtiss Waters, after they remained inactive for four weeks.

When the Dusseldorf prosecutor's office contacted Dieter Jann, the Zurich prosecutor in charge of the case, Jann told the German prosecutor's office that he did not know if UBS got Irene's fax instructing the fund transfer, said German officials.

At the same time, Jann also said that there was no order sent to UBS to cancel the account there.

For his part, UBS spokesman Christoph Meier told Die Zeit that, "I have no knowledge of UBS receiving a fax. I have no knowledge."

Jann has repeatedly refused the INQUIRER's requests for an interview.

A representative for the Swiss Federal Banking Commission spoke with this reporter but refused to comment on the Araneta case, citing the Swiss bank secrecy law.

Tight-lipped delegates

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who has been deputized by the Department of Justice to help in the investigation of the case, said the responses were typical of the Swiss officials.

"The UBS people have not gone beyond the denial stage. But there are now facts and circumstances that blast this denial to smithereens," said Chavez, who was one of the members of the Philippine delegation.

The others were Teehankee, Justice Undersecretary Ma. Chona Dimayuga, Jorge Sarmiento and Danilo Daniel of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Assistant Solicitor General Nestor Balacillo and Special Counsel Marie Yuvienco.

All of them, except Chavez, arrived from Switzerland where they had tried to seek the help of the Swiss in uncovering the Marcos funds believed to be held there.

But all the delegates were tight-lipped about their trip to Germany and Switzerland.

Even the usually glib Chavez, when contacted about the meetings of the delegation in Berlin and Dusseldorf, did not want to comment, saying they all had to wait for the official statement from Malacañang and the justice department.

Bentains find Ador story 'credible'...

(From page A1)

Castro, now a senator, and Korina Sanchez of ABS-CBN.

- Jude Estrada, a son of deposed President Joseph Estrada, handed over a bag containing P15 million to Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino of the PAOCTF at a gasoline station in Bulacan after the young Estrada learned that casino employee Edgar Bentain had been abducted.

Lacson denied that he bribed De Castro. De Castro also belied Mawanay's allegation.

NBI against second test

Wycoco personally thinks Mawanay should not be given a second lie detector test.

"If there is a second test and he passes it, we could have a politically tinged situation. The Lacson side would naturally claim that we rigged the second test so that Lacson and company would appear as the real suspects," the NBI chief said.

But Bentain's brother Edcel said Mawanay's narration of the abduction and murder of the casino employee was credible.

"He was straightforward and he remembered the details well. He knew what he was talking about," Edcel said after meeting with Mawanay.

Edcel met with Mawanay and Dante Jimenez, head of the anti-crime group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, to "clear his doubts" on his brother's disappearance.

Bentain went missing on Jan. 16, 1999, almost a year after he released a videotape of then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada playing baccarat in a casino.

During yesterday's meeting, Mawanay gave Edcel a written narration of his brother's abduction and murder, wherein Aquino had allegedly "played a very big role."

Edcel said he was convinced by Mawanay's story, but he was still "trying to reconcile" the former agent's version of the abduction with that of Bentain's girlfriend Cecille Subido.

Edcel said initial investigation showed that Subido heard a "commotion" when armed men abducted Bentain in the early morning of Jan. 16.

Mawanay, however, told Edcel that Bentain's abduction went on "smoothly."

In an interview with dzBB, Mawanay did not name the third broadcaster who received payment from Lacson but he described him as someone holding a government position in the province.

'That's enough'

Ador's revelation caught dzBB's anchor Arnold Clavio off guard.

"That's enough. That's enough. As a media practitioner, I will have to stop you. We are not in the media business just so we can malign anyone," Clavio told Ador.

"I'm the one talking anyway," Ador responded in Filipino on the air. "Actually, there are more people who received money from (Lacson). He gives me the details about the drop-off before I deliver the money."

"What I'm saying here is that he gave money to prominent media personalities and that I witnessed personally how they accepted the money," Ador said.

The former agent told Clavio that he was always accompanied by a certain Mang Ben whom he described in earlier interviews as Lacson's aide.

Ador's first sworn statement indicated that Mang Ben had been liquidated along with his wife and first-born son to silence them.

"Two of these personalities are now occupying government positions. One of them is really very prominent. If Lacson does not owe this guy any money, then how come he pays money to this person?" Ador asked.

The former PAOCTF agent eventually named the "very prominent person" as "Kabayan," adding that he delivered money to this person twice during his PAOCTF stint.

Payola money in a shoebox

"We delivered the money to a Pajero parked on Tomas Morato (Avenue in Quezon City). The money was inside a shoebox," Ador said.

"These things really happened in front of me. I witnessed these things. The fellow wouldn't even get out of the vehicle when he took the money," he said.

Ador said the other media personality won a seat "in the province."

"You know, his victory was actually a big insult to the person he defeated," the ex-agent said.

Ador said the third personality "works in Channel 2, a female, her name is Korina."

It was at this point that Clavio barred Ador from making further revelations.

Still, Ador managed to say on the air that the female broadcaster was still active in the TV network.

"This is not a joke. I'm not lying. I'm saying these things because I have seen all of these happen," Ador said.

The former agent added that he decided to reveal these details in reaction to Lacson's claim that reporters were mad at him for ordering a stop to the PNP practice of giving them payola.

'Fairy tale'

In a press statement, Lacson said Mawanay was stretching his credibility thin by coming out with one "fairy tale" charge after another.

He said there was no truth to Mawanay's allegation that he gave money to three ABS-CBN broadcasters.

Lacson said he even scrapped the alleged media payola at the PNP after he learned that "one hard-hitting columnist was receiving P250,000 monthly."

Lacson said Mawanay's allegations on three ABS-CBN personalities was "calculated to incite a network war since it is an open secret that Mawanay was the discovery of broadcast-journalist Arnold Clavio of the rival GMA 7."

"This only shows that Mawanay would say anything that his handlers would tell him to say. And it seems that the strategy of his handlers is to create more plots and subplots whenever he is caught lying," Lacson said. "This makes Ador's tale a never-ending story."

In a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, De Castro said he did not receive money from Lacson. He said he did not own a Pajero, but a Ford Expedition.

Although he never really became close to Lacson, De Castro said he had lauded him for his program to make the PNP personnel wear their uniform properly.

"He was very accommodating for interviews," De Castro said.

He said he was open to an investigation of Mawanay's allegations by the Senate committees on national security and on ethics.

In a news briefing, Sen. Franklin Drilon said there could be an investigation of Mawanay's allegations.

"I assume this will be investigated," Drilon said when asked whether there was a need for the ethics committee to look into the matter.

Three-page statement

In the three-page handwritten statement that he furnished Edcel, Mawanay claimed that he and other PAOCTF agents kidnapped Bentain between 4 and 5 a.m.

Mawanay said the team was headed by Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao, then PAOCTF chief for Luzon, and Aquino. The team included three other men codenamed "Mang Ben," "Toyo" and "Danao."

On their way to the Silahis Hotel casino (now Grand Boulevard Hotel) where Bentain was working, Mawanay said he heard a man telling the team over the radio: "*Nandito na ang subject, bilisan n'yo baka makawala pa* (The subject is already here. Hurry, we may lose him)."

The team was on board a white Mitsubishi L300 van, according to Mawanay. The PAOCTF agents dragged Bentain into the van.

Aquino then placed a black backpack on the victim's head and cuffed his hands and feet. Another pointed a .45-caliber pistol at Bentain.

Mawanay said the team went straight to the Shell gasoline station near the Tabang exit of the North Luzon Expressway in Bulacan.

Minutes later, a black car with a special license plate "JUDE" arrived and parked beside the L300 van.

After confirming that Bentain had already been abducted, Jude Estrada, son of the jailed president, allegedly alighted from the black car and handed over what seemed like a travel bag to Aquino, who was seated beside the driver of the L300 van.

P15 million from Jude

The young Estrada allegedly told Aquino that the bag contained P15 million, to which Aquino replied: "*Eto, may* pang-casino na tayo."

After the "transaction," the black car proceeded to Tabang, while the L300 van went to Guiguinto, Bulacan, where Mawanay, Toyo and Danao were allegedly asked by Aquino to return to the "office."

At about 2:30 p.m. that same day, Mawanay said Aquino phoned him and told him to go to a McDonald's restaurant in San Fernando, Pampanga, at 6:30 p.m. He was supposedly told that Toyo and Danao would meet him there.

At about 7 p.m., after the team had met in San Fernando, Mawanay said he and the other agents went to Bacolor, Pampanga, on board using the white L300 van.

About 3 feet from a bridge in Bacolor, Mawanay said he saw a man inside a drum whose body was already buried in cement. The man was Bentain, according to Mawanay.

Mawanay said the man, whose face was beaten black and blue, was crying and begging for his life.

The agent quoted Aquino as saying: "*T_ _ g-Ina ka, pakialamero ka kasi (*You son of a bitch, you meddle in other people's business too much*).*"

One of the PAOCTF agents then allegedly covered Bentain's head with another drum. The edges of the drums were sealed with a "silver tape."

Mancao, Mang Ben, Toyo and Danao allegedly dragged the drum into a hole 8 to 10 feet deep. Then they allegedly shoveled lahar into the grave.

When Mawanay asked Aquino who the man was, the PAOCTF official allegedly told him in Filipino: "Don't interfere, you may suffer the same fate."

Mawanay told Edcel that he, Mang Ben, Toyo and Danao were each given P5,000 for their "participation" in the abduction and killing of Bentain.

'Gloria Labandera' now a soap

(From page A1)

proposal, housewives and househusbands will be able to buy a new laundry detergent bar branded "Gloria Labandera (Gloria Laundrywoman)."

Yesterday morning, makers of "Surf" laundry soap reportedly presented to the President, the proud descendant of a laundrywoman, a sample of the detergent bar named in her honor.

Palace sources said the packaging featured a picture of Ms Macapagal and the name "Gloria Labandera" scrawled in orange letters.

"Maybe they should not use the President's photo. It may not be appropriate," said a worried Palace source who saw the sample.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao confirmed that the manufacturers had made the presentation of the proposed detergent brand. But he said he failed to take a close look at the sample, and added that he did not know the identity of the "proponents" of the idea.

Tiglao also could not say whether Ms Macapagal gave the intriguing proposal her seal of approval.

The meeting was not in the President's official daily schedule released to the press.

During the six-day Edsa III movement mounted by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada in April, the huge crowd, composed mostly of poor people, sang a ribald ditty titled "Gloria labandera" to mock Ms Macapagal.

But far from being piqued by the song, the President proudly declared that she was indeed descended from a laundrywoman.

She said her grandmother, the mother of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, washed their neighbors' clothes to help augment the family income.

And she thanked the Estrada supporters for the nickname.

Recently, members of the laity groups Couples for Christ and Handmaids of the Lord reworked the ditty and came up with new lyrics praising Ms Macapagal.

Titled "Alerta Labandera (Alert Laundrywoman)," the new lyrics were written by Marilen Dinglasan, project director of the Ginintuan Foundation.

Aprons, hearts, suds

At one Palace function, a group of women wore aprons emblazoned with the words "*Labandera Kami ni Ate Glo* (We're Big Sister Glo's Laundrywomen)."

The President's picture was framed by a heart-shaped logo surrounded by suds.

Tach Peralta, one of the women who wore the aprons, said Ms Macapagal's family was the inspiration for the new lyrics.

"The President's grandmother was a laundrywoman and yet her family produced two Presidents," Peralta said.

The new version of the song goes:

Alerta Labandera/Ngayon maaraw na/Sa hirap may ginhawa, Pagasa sa Bukas. Alerta Labandera/Ang bida ay tayo/ Kasama ang ninuno/Ng ating Pangulo.

Mabuhay Magsaya/Lab kami ni Ate Glo/Ang laba ay sa damit/ Sarili at budhi.

Magkaisa tayo/ Handog sa Maykapal/At bayan.

Alerta Labandera/Lab kami ni Ate Glo.

Lalaine: We were treated like visitors

(From page A1)

that you can never say you're giving enough love," she said.

Lalaine said that during her ordeal, she became close to the American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham.

"They were like my parents there," she said. When she was released, she said, she left to the Burnhams all the pieces of clothing that the Abu Sayyaf had given her—like a jacket and a *malong*—and told them to be "strong."

From Lamitan, Basilan, Lalaine and Luis Chito Bautista III—two of the original three Americans and 17 Filipinos abducted by the Abu Sayyaf on May 27 from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan—were taken to the Armed Forces' Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City.

The two feasted on the lunch prepared by the wife of Southcom chief Gen. Gregorio Camiling because, said Lalaine, "we had not eaten for two days."

For all that, she seemed all right except for a few lost pounds and skin rashes brought on by insect bites.

'More practical'

Lalaine has lived a privileged life, and like any other teenager nowadays, her concerns were mostly about her own needs, friends, the latest fashions and fads, even the latest on boys.

But now, "I'm more practical," she said.

"In the mountains you have to eat even what you don't want to eat," she said. "At one time two tablespoons of sugar were all that we ate for an entire day. Sometimes, rice and salt. We're lucky if we had *tuyo* (dried fish). Life is difficult in the mountains."

But there were days when they had carabao meat cooked in soy sauce, as when the Abu Sayyaf was able to parry the military blocking forces and checkpoints.

"During those times, you learn to grab for food so you don't go hungry," she said.

The hardest part, Lalaine said, was walking at night.

It was doubly hard for her and the other female hostages because the male hostages and their security escorts could not physically guide them through the rough terrain.

No touch

The Abu Sayyaf believes it is *haram* (a sin) to touch the hand of any female not one's wife, she said, adding:

"So they use a towel—they hold one end and I hold another end—to guide me."

Lalaine and the other female hostages were also asked to cover their heads with a *turong*.

But despite the difficulties, Lalaine said, she and the others still had time for baths in the river.

She said their captors bought them toothpaste and toothbrushes, and were "always asking what we wanted, like we were visitors."

"I had a lot of Coke in Lamitan," she said, recalling a day early in June when she and the other hostages were taken to the town to drink Coke, and ran smack into military troops.

"But often, we drink rainwater, or *buko* juice straight from the tree. We'd ask, and they'll climb a tree to get *buko*," she said.

'For a cause'

Lalaine said some of her Abu Sayyaf captors explained to her the basis for the group's existence—the desire to have their homeland back in the control of Muslims.

Asked if she believed that the Abu Sayyaf was fighting for a cause, she said: "Yes, I saw it, especially the poverty in the mountains."

She described the group's spokesperson Abu Sabaya as a man with "a word of honor," and said he once told her, "Be patient, you will be released."

Now Lalaine is just thankful to be back in the loving embrace of her parents.

The family went to church yesterday morning and had a meal at a restaurant in Quezon City with some friends.

Lalaine has undergone at least three debriefing sessions with the military and the police since her release.

Asked whether she planned to go on a vacation, she quickly said: "No, I'm going on with my life. I'm going back to school."

Ransom

Intelligence reports indicate that Lalaine's family paid a still unconfirmed amount to the Abu Sayyaf for her freedom.

Without directly confirming reports of ransom payments, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan yesterday reiterated the government's call for the families of the remaining hostages not to yield to any ransom demand.

"We appeal to (the families') patriotic values," Adan told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo. "Every ransom payment given means more firearms and recruits that will enhance the capability of these terrorists."

Adan did not directly refute reports that the amount of P6 million changed hands for Lalaine's freedom.

"The figure did not come from the military . . . It could be smaller or bigger, or it could be just speculation," he said.

But he added: "It's a big possibility that the relatives resort to emissaries, or Abu Sabaya himself contacts the relatives and (the payment) is difficult to intercept."

Of the 20 persons seized from Dos Palmas, only four remain—Filipinos Angie Montealegre and Ma. Fe Rosadeno, and the Burnhams.

The others also in Abu Sayyaf hands are four Filipinos taken from Lamitan on June 2 and 13 more from Lantawan on June 11.

During the Sipadan hostage crisis last year, the military estimated the ransom received by the Abu Sayyaf at more than P500 million.

"There is no law or curfew to prevent (emissaries) from (going to) the bandit lairs," Adan said.

Batting for stricter laws to counter terrorism, he said: "There must be a review of existing policies to prevent the payment of ransom."

Sobero

From California, the brother of American hostage Guillermo Sobero called Radio Mindanao Network in Zamboanga City and said the family desperately needed to know what had happened to him.

"We do not know what is going on and we really need some answers," Agence France Presse quoted Alberto Sobero as saying.

The Abu Sayyaf has consistently said it had beheaded Sobero as an "Independence Day gift" to the government.

Several freed hostages had earlier told the military that they last saw Sobero on the night of June 11, a day before Sabaya announced the alleged execution.

The military said it officially presumed that Sobero had been killed, but stressed that the claim had not been confirmed as his body had yet to be found.

"Everybody has so many stories . . that he is dead and this and that, and we do not know which one to believe," Alberto Sobero said.

He said he hoped that the Abu Sayyaf would "end this cycle of violence."

Sobero's sister, Anna, earlier pleaded with Sabaya to free her brother, and stressed that they still believed he was still alive. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, AFP***

Rains wash out baseball

RAINS yesterday washed out the baseball games organized by the Philippine Amateur Baseball Association at the Rizal Ballpark in commemoration of Fil-Am Friendship Day. The day-long affair was instead reduced to a baseball clinic supervised by the visiting American Major League coaches, led by Fil-Am Jim Ramos and Dennis Bonebreak.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA Canon Greater Hartford Open, Final Round at 9 a.m. (r), Highlights at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA Shoprite Classic, Final Round at 10 p.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: Wimbledon, Day 9 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.), Day 9 - Men's Quarterfinals at 12 noon (r), Day 10 - Ladies Singles Semi Finals at 9 a.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: MLB - Philadelphia Phillies vs Atlanta Braves at 7 a.m. on ESPN

ESPINO SHINES

SLR downs Shell for 3rd straight win

Games tomorrow (Ynares Center)
5:15 p.m.—Tanduay vs Mobiline
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Pop Cola

BY JUNE NAVARRO

STA. LUCIA Realty survived a stormy third quarter to slip past Shell, 78-69, and formalize its entry in the quarterfinals of the PBA Commissioner's Cup last night at the Philsports Arena.

On a cold and rainy night, the Realtors blew hot in the final canto as they brushed aside anemic field goal shooting to notch their third consecutive victory for a 4-3 record.

Damian Owens, who turned in another impressive performance with 26 points, masterminded the Realtors' ploy but most of the credit went to slotman Dennis Espino as he displayed flashes of brilliance in the homestretch.

Espino had 13 of his 17 points in the latter half, making shots that helped rejuvenate the Realtors amid the Turbochargers' repeated comebacks.

Courtesy of Rob Wainwright and Tremaine Wingfield, the Turbochargers were able to put a semblance of a fight as they controlled the momentum at both ends of the floor in the third.

Wingfield and Wainwright poured in the points as Shell broke free from a 33-40 half sent the Turbochargers plunging deeper in the standings at 1-6.

Purefoods zoomed to its fifth straight victory with an 85-76 beating of Alaska in the second game. The Hotdogs tied San Miguel Beer at the top with a 5-2 card while the Aces dropped to 4-3.

The Scores:

STA. LUCIA 78—Owens 26, Espino 17, Aquino 11, Mendoza 9, Tan 7, Del Rosario 2, Francisco 2, David 2, Belano 2.

SHELL 69—Wingfield 25, Wainwright 20, Hrabak 12, Jackson 6, Singson 4, Marzan 1, Telan 1, Cheng 0, Esplana 0, Del Rosario 0.

Quarterscores: 19-15, 40-33, 50-51, 78-69.

REUTERS

ESCAPE ACT

Jennifer Capriati exults after scoring a come-from-behind victory over Serena Williams (inset) yesterday, 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-3, in the Wimbledon quarterfinals. Serena, blowing away two straight-set points victory, blamed a stomach virus for her defeat.

Batangas, Laguna whip foes

MBA FIRST PHASE

Standings	W	L
Andok's San Juan	6	2
Negros	6	2
LBC Batangas	4	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	5	3
FedEx Laguna	3	3
Nueva Ecija	2	3
Socsargen	1	6
Davao	1	7

Games Tomorrow
Tinga Gym (Taguig)
3:00 p.m.—Negros vs Nueva Ecija
5:30 p.m.—San Juan vs Socsargen

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers both turned hot for the FedEx Laguna Lakers and the Nueva Ecija Patriots couldn't cool them down last night.

Expectedly, the Lakers tallied an easy 111-100 victory and leveled their slate at 3-3 in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the San Luis Sports Complex here.

Clay, atoning for his offensive slack in the last two games, fired a game-high 32 points on top of six rebounds, seven assists and three steals for the Lakers, who will embark on a three-game southern tour starting Sunday.

Ample help came from Flowers, who was again unstoppable underneath the paint with 28 points, 18 rebounds and one block.

The Patriots fell to 2-3 despite the 17-point output of Andy de Guzman in the fourth quarter.

Earlier, the LBC Batangas Blades rode on the steady play of Chucho Serrano to subdue the Davao Eagles, 90-84, at the Rizal Memorial Colleges Gym in Davao City.

Serrano poured 13 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter as the Blades warded off the Eagles in the last two minutes to check their two-game skid on the road and improve their record to 4-2.

Sans last year's MVP Romel Adducul, the Blades struggled all game-long as Alex Compton couldn't find his range and the Eagles' defenses held.

Adducul sprained his right ankle during the Blades' scrimmage on Tuesday, putting to naught coach Nash Racela's pre-game strategies hatched during their 10-day break.

Fact is, the Eagles even led at 75-71 behind the sniping of Mike Manigo and the inside plays of the burly Ryan Bernardo.

The Blades refused to be rattled, however, and with Serrano, Compton, Eddie Laure and Jeffrey Sanders at the scoring end seized the upperhand anew at 82-79.

Team director Luis Chuidian and manager Chris Guidotti cheered on the Blades in the absence of team owners Santi and Dino Araneta, who had pressing commitments.

Roy Luarca

77th NCAA cagefest unfurls July 7

Games Saturday
12 nn—Opening Ceremonies
1 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Jose Rizal University
3 p.m.—Mapua vs UPHR
5 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Letran
7 p.m.—Phil. Christian vs San Beda

THE NATIONAL College Athletic Association, the country's oldest and most glamorous amateur cagefest, unfurls its 77th edition on July 7 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The tournament boasts of parading fresh talents even as it hopes to unravel a balanced competition among the competing teams, most of which have beefed up their lineups.

Host Philippine Christian University has promised a more exciting league as PCU athletic moderator Rachab Cunanan aptly described the games as "unpredictable until the last minute."

"This season, all teams have a chance for the crown," said Cunanan during yesterday press conference at the Green Planet. "And even those without a legitimate center can still win because they can run fast."

Among the NCAA officials who attended the press conference are NCAA president and PCU president Dr. Oscar Suarez, NCAA policy and management board members Fr. Anscar J. Chupungco, OSB and Fr. Paul de Vera, OSB of San Beda, Fr. Constantino Real, OAR and Frank Gusi of San Sebastian, UPHR president Antonio Tamayo and athletic moderator Dr. Alejandro Dagdag, Fr. Edwin Lao, OP and Fr. Edgardo Alaurin, OP of Letran, Bro. Rolando Dizon, Henry Atayde and Mark Galino of College of St. Benilde, JRU president lawyer Jose D. Baltazar and Delfin Asistio, and Mapua president Dr. Reynaldo Vea and athletic coordinator Ding Lozano.

UE listed UAAP dark horse

FOR the last couple of years, the University of the East Warriors have always been dubbed dark horses. But each time, they failed to reach the Final Four of the UAAP Basketball tournament, which unfolds on July 14 at the Araneta Coliseum.

This year, UE coach Boyzie Zamar expects to have a different ending.

"I think it's just a question of my players' attitude, which I hope I have addressed this year. It's up to them if they want to remain as darkhorses or take it to the next level," said Zamar.

"Our goal is just to make it to the Final Four. Whatever comes after that will just be a bonus for us," he said.

Looking to end a 17-year title drought, UE's bid however is dampened a bit by the loss Aldwyn Manubag, Jamil Shular and Liban Ali.

James Yap's eligibility is likewise being questioned after he played in the Filipino-Chinese league last year. Yap's case, and other player eligibility issues, will be decided by the UAAP Board meeting sometime this week.

UE's strength this year is still their backcourt—and Zamar vowed to capitalize on it—with players like Paul Artadi, Adrian Ronquillo, Arnold Booker, Paolo Hubalde and Alan Omiping alternating among themselves at the 1-2 spots.

'Lazaro' to host 9 races

RACES resume tonight at the San Lazaro Hippodrome as the Manila Jockey Club, Inc (MJCI) banners the second day of its Fil-Am Friendship Racing Festival, with nine runs on tap.

The highlight of today's card is the running of the "S&R Price Membership Cup," a P200,000-guaranteed stakes event sponsored by foreign retail giant S&R Price Membership Club.

"The staging of the first-ever S&R Price Membership Cup signals the start of a mutually-beneficial business partnership between the MJC and S&R and heralds their much-awaited entry into the local market," said MJCI chief, lawyer Alfonso R. Reyno, Jr.

SPORTSWATCH

Lozada, Delicano win gold

JOHN Lozada and Joebert Delicano won each one more gold and Raphie Pilaspilas earned a bronze Wednesday to highlight the Philippines' glorious campaign in the Vietnam international track and field championship. Lozada ruled the 1,500 m and Delicano the triple jump in similar easy fashions to emerge the winningest athletes in the five-nation competition held at Thong Nhat stadium in Ho Chi Minh City. The Philippines finished with eight golds, one silver and one bronze. Korea, which sent 14 athletes, won five golds, one silver and one bronze, while Malaysia, with 19 athletes, most of them juniors, got two golds, five silvers and seven bronzes. Cambodia did not win a single medal.

Magliquian assured of bronze

BANGKOK—Juanito Magliquian upset local favorite Kaew Pongprayoon of Thailand, 7-5, Tuesday night to assure Team Caltex Philippines of at least a bronze medal in the 24th King's Cup Amateur Boxing Tournament here. Magliquian, the pinweight gold medalist in the last Southeast Asian Games, took command from the opening bell and then kept the Thai at bay throughout the bout. He silenced the local fans with a barrage of left hooks and right straight to Kaew's face in the third round. Two more Team Caltex Philippine pugs, featherweight Roel Laguna and flyweight Vincent Palicte, bid for a semifinals seat and two more automatic bronze medals on Wednesday night when they fight in the quarterfinals.

King offers Lewis $12.5M

NEW YORK—Promoter Don King is offering $12.5 million to Lennox Lewis for a court-ordered rematch against Hasim Rahman, the WBC-IBF heavyweight champion. The offer was disclosed Tuesday at a news conference to promote King's Aug. 5 card in Beijing at which John Ruiz will defend the WBA heavyweight title against Evander Holyfield. "I'm going to knock him out," predicted Holyfield, who will try to win at least a piece of the heavyweight title for the fifth time. "He talks about becoming a five-time champion, but I never saw him becoming a four-time champion," said Ruiz, who thought he deserved the decision that went to Holyfield when they fought for the vacant WBA title last Aug. 12. Ruiz became champion by outpointing Holyfield on March 3. King said his network, KingVision, will broadcast the fight and serve as the pay-per-view distributor in the United States. Rahman will be a television analyst for the fight, which will be seen Saturday night Aug. 4 in the United States.

₱1-M Glutaphos chess postponed

DUE to the bad weather, the P1-million Glutaphos Philippine Chess Grand Prix has been moved to a new date which will be announced later. Participants traveling by sea bound for the Bacolod chessfest requested for the postponement. Deadline of submission of entries has also been moved to July 21. Call 844-7481 or 926-9451 for other details.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Medal's Slew 2. Big Mama 3. Morpheus 4. Exotic
Race 2—1. Jamie's Princess 2. Imperial Passion 3. Courage 4. Be Ready
Race 3—1. Terminal Bound 2. Lady Queen 3. Timeless Beauty
Race 4—Baptism of Fire 2. Party Princess 3. Gallop for Gold 4. Dixie Melody
Race 5—1. Sham Sham 2. Kiss 'em Goodbye 3. Grand Prize
Race 6—1. Gold Honors 2. Wendy's Pride 3. Corporate Law 4. Sealed With A Kiss
Race 7—1. Tumataginting 2. Midnight Rose 3. Top Bullet 4. Cherry Lane
Race 8—1. Storm Princess 2. Agarra Pinche 3. Touch of Jax 4. Lucky El
Race 9—1. Renegade 2. Royal Diamond 3. Arigato 4. Native Talent

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ILIGAN
5/F Marietta Tower Bldg.
Quezon Ave. cor. Echiverri St.,
Iligan City
Tel./Fax No. (063)2232092

DAVAO
14/F Unit 140 &142 Landco PDCP Corporate Tower
J.P Laurel Avenue
Bajada, Davao City
Tel./Fax No. (082) 2245143

22/F Rufino Pacific Tower
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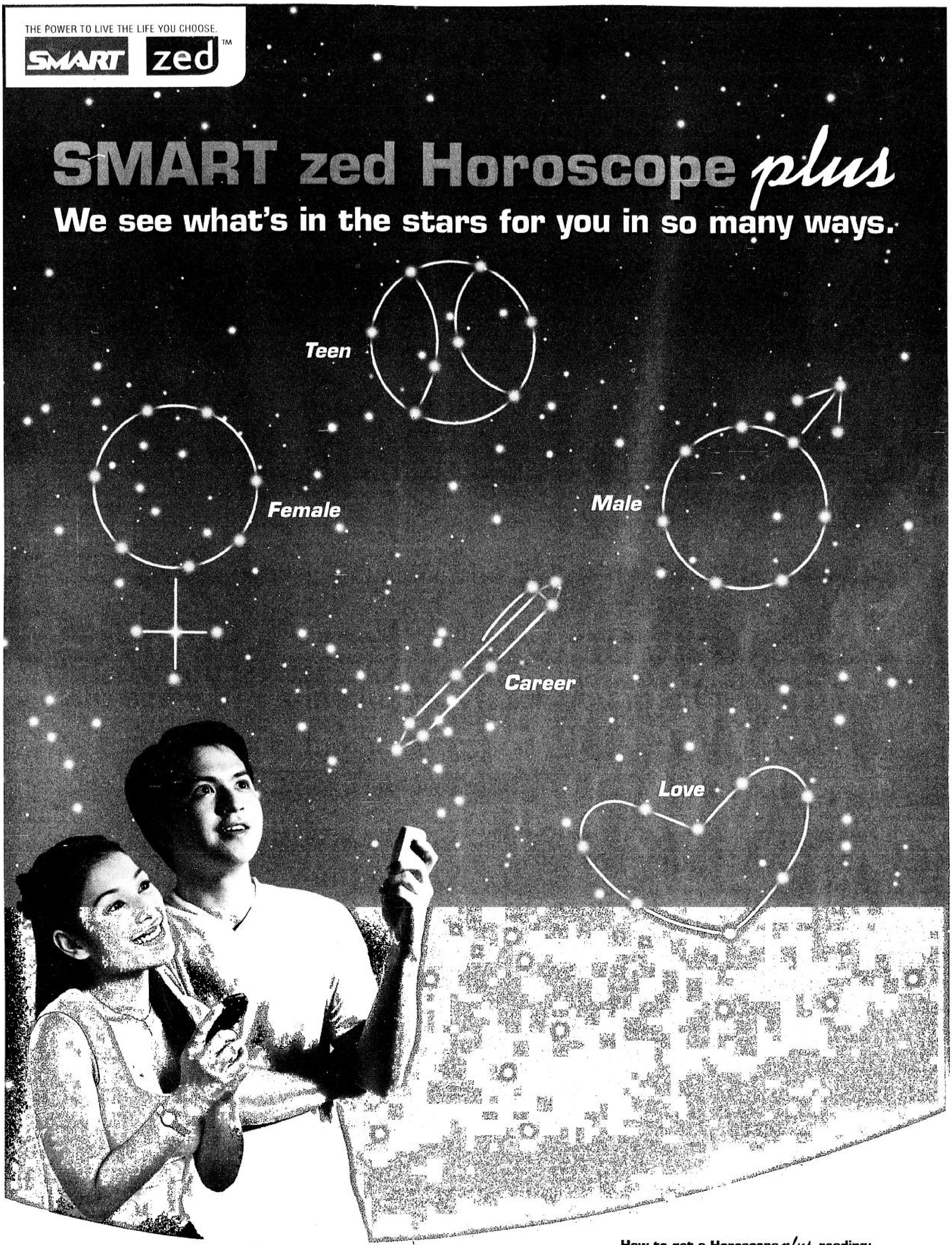

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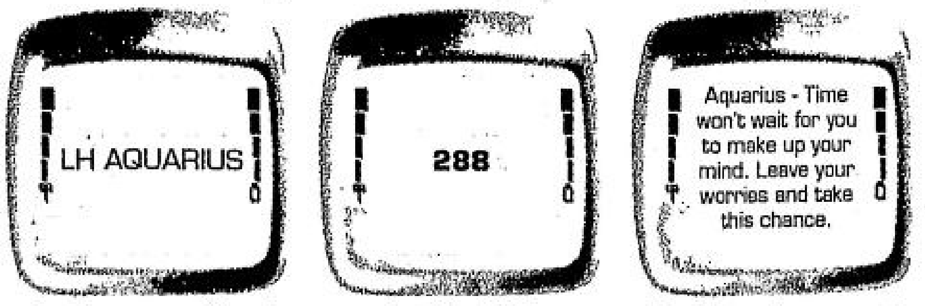
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11 MMDA Kotong policemen arrested A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

MARCELINO Ramos, 37, and Korean Park Sang Ho, 33, stand accused of kidnapping Korean Chang Ho Woo in exchange for P1.2 million in ransom.
VALHANDUMON

Korean ransomed, Frenchman hogtied

BY DAVE M. VERIDIANO AND CARMELA REYES,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TWO MORE foreigners experienced crime in the Philippines firsthand when a Korean trader was kidnapped in Quezon City while a Frenchman and his Filipino wife were hogtied by burglars in Bulacan over the weekend.

Police yesterday managed to arrest two of the kidnappers of Korean Chang Ho Woo, temporarily residing at the Lola Taya Annex Building on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, hours after he was released in exchange for P1.2 million in ransom.

In a conference yesterday, Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, Central Police District chief, identified the suspects as Korean Park Sang Ho, 33, of 24-B North Xavierville Subdivision, Loyola Heights, Quezon City; and Mercelino Ramos, 37, a cashier at the World Cup Karaoke Bar, also in

KOREAN/A20

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VICTIM'S sister claws at suspect during jail meeting.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Serial rapist falls after killing girl

BY NELSON F. FLORES

JOE Ivan Lucero, 18, a tricycle driver, was apprehended shortly before midnight on Tuesday for allegedly raping and killing a 10-year-old girl in Makati. He was on his bike near his house at 2468 Pasong Tirad St., Barangay Tejeros, Makati City when arrested.

He did not resist and police said they later discovered Lucero was also wanted for two rape cases pending before the Makati City Regional Trial Courts.

Police said a number of witnesses had identified Lucero as the person last seen with the victim who was raped and killed shortly before midnight Tuesday.

Police said Lucero was also seen near the crime scene a few moments before the victim was found naked and moaning by patrolling barangay *tanods* who rushed her to the hospital.

The victim, a resident of Barangay La Paz in Makati City, died from head injuries caused by repeated bashing on arrival at the Ospital Ng Makati.

Police said she was on her way home when raped in a vacant lot along P. Ocampo Street, Barangay La Paza.

PO2 Reynaldo Juan, Makati police homicide investigator, said a block of stone stained with blood appears to have been used in bashing the victim's head. The stone was found at the crime scene.

Based on the evidence, police said Lucero would find it hard to escape the death penalty.

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ROTC : To ban or not to ban

By Armand N. Nocum

THE PROPOPOSAL to abolish the Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC) could encounter rough sailing in the Senate.

Senator Renato Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, filed a bill seeking the abolition of the military training program.

The bill also seeks the abolition of the Citizens Army Training (CAT), which is the ROTC's high school counterpart.

But instead of abolishing the military training programs, Senators Sergio Osmena III, Juan Flavier, Franklin Drilon, Ramon Magsaysay and Rodolfo Biazon want to make the military instruction for students "optional."

Flavier's Senate Bill No. 60 calls for the optional enforcement of the ROTC. His Senate Bill No. 41 proposes that Philippine colleges and universities should offer Law Enforcement and Community Service courses in lieu of the ROTC.

"There is a need to orient and involve young Filipinos in other relevant areas of national concern such as law enforcement, community service and environmental protection," Flavier said in a statement.

In Senate bill No. 457, Drilon said that students interested in joining the AFP Reserved Force should instead be given "optional courses" such as the law enforcement service and civil welfare service.

But Drilon stressed that "it is still in the national interest to encourage the Filipino youth to understand the significance of military service and training for the safety and security of citizens."

Over the weekend, thousands of ROTC cadets walked out of their training grounds on various Metro Manila universities to dramatize their protest against the ROTC. Earlier, a nationwide signature campaign had also been launched in universities nationwide to urge Congress to pass a bill abolishing the ROTC.

In filing Senate bill No. 1314, Cayetano said that the ROTC and CAT have become "anachronistic...(since) the original justification for compulsory CAT and ROTC no longer exists."

The ROTC was created through the National Defense Act (Commonwealth Act No. 1) and Republic Act No. 7077 when the country had just emerged from war.

"While the lofty objective of said law was to train all able-bodied students for military skills in case of war, it cannot be disputed that this 66-year old law is anachronistic," Cayetano said.

Cayetano noted that the "existing programs are no longer responsive to the needs of the present time" and that it only "encourages and breeds graft and corruption."

The clamor for the abolition of ROTC came after UST engineering student Mark Welson Chua was murdered after exposing anomalies in the military training program.

Chua's body was found wrapped in a carpet and floating in the Pasig River last March 19. His face was also wrapped in packing tape, and his hands and feet were bound.

'It's not simply a military training'

ASKED by Malacañang to comment on the ROTC issue, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday said the military and defense establishment's "tentative recommendation" would be known in a "few days time." But he said he believes that the ROTC should not be scrapped.

Reyes stressed that the "security of the state is everybody's responsibility."

"The ROTC program is not simply a military training program," Reyes said. "It is (a program) developing discipline, character and love of country which is very important. We can't have people believe that they're not responsible for the security of the country."

Reyes, however, said that the defense and military establishments were aware that there was "a lot of room for improvement" in the program, especially on minimizing reported anomalies there.

"We have to amend the law but are in the meantime studying options and we ask everybody else to improve the situation," Reyes said. *Christine Avendano*

Is Ador a 'planted' witness?

On Target

Ramon Tulfo

AUTHORITIES should view with suspicion the allegations of a guy who hid behind the name "Ador" to purportedly expose the involvement of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) in some crimes.

Coming out into the open, Ador is Angelo Mawanay who, former PAOCTF chief and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson says, is a swindler because of his many unpaid debts. Mawanay himself admits to owing debts totaling P100,000 to neighbors.

Be that as it may, Mawanay could be a witness fielded by—don't fall off your chair—the PAOCTF.

***

Why this accusation against Mawanay who has volunteered to expose the supposed evil deeds of the defunct super police agency?

Because he seems to be lying through his teeth. His exposes are so incredible the citizenry would sympathize with the people he is accusing. The people whose evil deeds were supposedly uncovered by Mawanay would look like victims of black propaganda.

Mawanay, who says he is a former civilian PAOCTF agent, has implicated former President Ramos in major crimes such as the abduction and murder of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

***

Lacson, one of those Mawanay is accusing, is right: the accuser lost his credibility when he implicated Mr. Ramos in several heinous crimes.

"Now that he is pointing to former President Ramos, all of a sudden he becomes incredible. When he was accusing me, he was credible," the former PNP and PAOCTF chief said. "So, you see the change of attitude.

Well said. The accusation against Ramos was the last straw that broke the camel's back. Mawanay is as credible as he is handsome.

***

From the very start, it was easy to tell Mawanay was not believable.

He refused to undergo a lie detector test at first to buttress his allegations. Mawanay said he would have to consult his lawyer, but why the need for a lawyer when he's not the accused but the accuser? A person who's telling the truth wouldn't have second thoughts undergoing a polygraph test.

And then when he finally took the lie detector test the results were "inconclusive," according to investigators. In short, the machine said he lied in answering some questions. His excuse for this was that he was distracted by the presence of reporters and that he was upset at the time.

***

Another incredible tale of Mawanay's concerns his alleged delivery of shabu to several persons, including supposedly a close relative of former President Estrada.

He is apparently referring to Jude Estrada who is a drug user. Jude's drug use is no longer a secret. In fact, Jude was linked to drug traffic when Erap was still vice president and concurrent chair of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC). Remember the time he beat up a notorious drug pusher, a woman named Espanola, for alleged non-remittance to him of the proceeds of a drug deal?

But he could not have been entrusted with delivering methamphetamine hydrochoride (shabu) to Jude because he didn't belong in the inner circle. He was only a civilian PAOCTF agent. Deliveries of shabu to Jude, if ever they took place at all, would have been undertaken by very trusted men.

***

Mawanay said he was present in meetings held by PAOCTF officers to plan bank robberies. He said his job was to determine the time bank vaults were opened and closed, to know when there were few people inside the bank and determine the police precincts in the area where heists would take place.

Their group, Mawanay said, offered grease money to the precinct commanders and other police officers in the areas where the heists were to take place.

If these were so, then many bank robberies would have taken place in Metro Manila during the time of Erap when the PAOCTF was riding high. But there were few bank robberies then because the Erap administration allegedly made a pact with big robbery and kidnap syndicates for them to operate outside Metro Manila. In exchange, the government gave them concessions, smuggling rice without harassment.

***

What's the reason why Mawanay has come out?

To give authorities the bum steer and also to make the stories about the PAOCTF incredible even if they happen to be true.

Mawanay's tale has a semblance of truth in it. For instance, the abduction and murder of Dacer did take place. But some details, like the supposed participation of former President Ramos, were twisted in such a way as to make the story incredible.

Mawanay exaggerated his story to make the public wary of the stories coming out about the PAOCTF's misdeeds. Exaggerations in a story make it unbelievable even if on the whole it is true.

Mawanay could be a planted witness—planted by the PAOCTF.

***

Mark Jimenez, accused of being a fugitive in the US, beat his detractors by voluntarily presenting himself to the court and posting bail for his temporary liberty.

The Department of Justice had recommended that no bail be granted on him because he might try to escape.

"I am not in hiding and I am not a fugitive in the US. How can I be a fugitive when I have subjected myself to the legal process? I have never been in hiding because I even ran, campaigned for, and won a seat in Congress," Jimenez said in a phone conversation with this writer.

"I have not committed a crime in my country. And even in the US, I'm being prosecuted for a political, not criminal, offense," he added.

One of Jimenez's alleged crime is illegal campaign contribution to former President Bill Clinton.

11 MMDA Kotong policemen arrested

By Dave M. Veridiano

PNP Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza yesterday presented to the media 11 traffic enforcers of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) who were arrested while allegedly extorting money from motorists on major thoroughfares in Metro Manila during the rains.

Mendoza said that their arrest is the start of a renewed drive against the so called "kotong cops" who usually victimize motorists, particularly jeepney drivers with trumped up traffic violations.

The suspects were identified as Armando D. Arzala, 52 of Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City; Mamerto Salvador, 51, of Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City; Patricio B. Vallejo, 46, of Raja Bago, Tondo, Manila; Rogelio Romualdez, Nicanor Ligon, Rogelio Fuentespina, Ernesto Llobet, Bienvenido Amado, Teofilo Geron, Reynaldo de Jesus and Amante Tibe.

The enforcers, known as the MMDA "Blue Boys" for their striking blue uniforms, were arrested one after the other by members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) led by Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto.

Gualberto said that all the suspects were caught in the act of extorting money from jeepney and bus drivers they had flagged down for alleged violation of traffic rules.

Gualberto said his men started conducting operations against "hard-knock" mulcting cops and traffic enforcers early Monday morning due to mounting complaints against them.

Charges of estafa and robbery extortion are being readied against the suspects.

During investigation, one of the suspects confessed to remitting his daily collection to a policeman.

This prompted Gualberto to order a deeper investigation that could lead to the identification of the at least three policemen who were tagged as the ones behind this extortion activities.

Gualberto said the three policemen allegedly required each MMDA traffic cop to remit at least P2,000 to them on a daily basis.

Mendoza immediately ordered the arrest of the three policemen and vowed to dismiss them from service.

VALHANDUMON

TWO of the suspects bare the shame of it all before the media.

Atienza scores cops for 'indifference'

By Jerome Aning

THE SUDDEN rise in robbery incidents in Manila is straining relations between Mayor Lito Atienza and the city police chief.

Atienza, concerned over the increasing robbery incidents and police inefficiency, yesterday said he wants all station commanders in the city to also report to him.

"(The mayor) would require the station commanders of the 11 Western Police District stations in Manila to submit weekly reports to his office," a statement from Atienza's office said.

Normally, the 11 station commanders—all with the rank of police colonels—report to the WPD acting director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., who assumed his post less than three months ago.

"I will closely monitor the performance of each station commander and make the necessary recommendations to their superiors if we are able to determine that they are performing below par,' Atienza stressed.

The other day, Pasinos himself was given a scolding by Atienza, who demanded that the police presence in the city's Quiapo, Ermita and Malate district be improved due to the occurrence of several holdups and robberies last weekend.

Yesterday, the mayor became upset upon learning that two journalists lost their cell phones to knife-wielding holdup men inside an FX cab Tuesday morning.

The victims, Genalyn Kabiling of Manila Bulletin and Kathering Andraneda of CyberDyaryo claimed they were given a run-around by policemen at the WPD headquarters and insulted by the desk officer at the WPD Station 3 in Sta. Cruz.

Last week, Philippine Star reporter Mike Frialde was also divested of his cell phone along Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard in Sta. Mesa. He said he was met with indifference by night-shift policemen manning the WPD Station 8.

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at Limits Entertainment Hall and Disco
10:30 P.M.
featuring Jojo Silverio and Louis Ramirez

Regular Showing starts on July 11

Korean ... (From page A19)

Quezon City.

Tor said his men from the CPD's intelligence division failed to arrest the gang leader who is also a Korean.

On Sunday, Park, Ramos and the other Korean, abducted Woo from the Silla Restaurant and karaoke bar on Timog Avenue about 7 p.m. and drove off onboard a Honda Civic (UJC-815), police said.

The kidnappers blindfolded Woo and drove him to Tagaytay City where they demanded P2 million in exchange for his life. The victim pleaded and promised to pay the ransom, police said.

The suspects then decided to take him back to the bar where he was abducted and locked him up in a room, while they negotiated with the victim's wife.

Woo's wife managed to lower the ransom to P1.2 million, police said. She issued a check which Ramos encashed at the Metropolitan Bank branch on Timog Avenue.

But police, working on the case throughout the negotiation, arrested the two suspects hours after the payoff.

Police seized P50,000 in ransom money, an 8210 Nokia cellular phone and the Civic Honda allegedly used in the abduction from Park and Ramos, Tor said.

The other Korean, who managed to escape with the bulk of the ransom, is now being hunted down by CPD intelligence men.

In Bulacan, Frenchman Marcel Collins and wife Pacita were hogtied by burglars who broke into the house of their Filipino host in Barangay Taliptip, Bulacan, Bulacan on Saturday.

The couple survived the ordeal but were so shaken that they were forced to move to a hotel in Metro Manila after the robbery.

The Collins had been staying at the house of their friend, fishpond operator Luisito Samonte, for a week. They were having dinner Saturday when five men barged in and, at gunpoint, asked Samonte where he was keeping his safe containing jewelry and cash.

The robbers tied the Collins, Samonte, his wife and their four children while they took the vault containing P5 million in jewelry and P250,000 in cash. The suspects also took Samonte's P21,000 cash.

The suspects fled using Samonte's Toyota Hi-Ace van.

Police caught up with the suspects on the boundary of Bulacan and Malabon. After a brief gunfight, the suspects abandoned the van on Barangay Hulong Duhat in Malabon.

They recovered Samonte's vehicle and the vault with its contents intact. Only Samonte's P21,000 were taken by the suspects, police said.

Also recovered from the scene were 12 empty shells of .9 mm and .45 cal. pistols and a bloodstained pillow inside the van.

Hunt on for Bacalla murder suspect

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court yesterday ordered the immediate arrest of the principal suspect in the killing of kidnap victim Mark Bacalla.

Judge Monina Zenarosa of QC-RTC Branch 76 issued the order after suspect Onofre Surat failed to show up during the scheduled arraignment yesterday morning.

Surat, a family friend of the Bacallas, escaped from the East Avenue Medical Center while supposedly undergoing treatment.

Five others charged in the kidnap-slaying of Bacalla—Zaldy Carino, Felipe Pader, Sammy Pader, Rodrigo Catungal and Jero Garcia—all pleaded not guilty.

Bacalla, 24, the eldest son of late QC-RTC Judge Marciano Bacalla and a graduate of the AMA Computer College, was abducted on May 3.

Later, his body was found in a shallow grave in Barangay Rizal, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija.

Despite the young Bacalla's death, the suspects still managed to collect P400,000 in ransom from his mother.

METROWATCH

Lina sacks warden

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday relieved the jail warden of General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite following the escape of 18 inmates Monday night. Lina also directed the Cavite Provincial Police Office to assist the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in the massive manhunt for the inmates who remain at large. Ordered relieved by the DILG Chief was Jail Inspector Arnaldo Jalimbawa, warden of the General Mariano Alvarez municipal jail. Jalimbawa, who is facing possible dismissal from service, was replaced by Jail Inspector Rey de Luna. Lina also ordered Jail Officers 1 Mariano Maligud and Romeo Adion, who were on duty at the time of the jailbreak, placed under technical arrest.

AWOL cop killed

A NUEVA ECIJA policeman who had been absent without leave and moonlighting as a jeepney driver was shot dead by two of his passengers in Sta. Mesa, Manila on Tuesday night. SPO1 Victoriano dela Cruz, 39, of 6-D San Marcelino St., Plainview Subdivision, Mandaluyong City died upon arrival at the Lourdes Hospital. He sustained a gunshot wound in the head. Cops are hunting down two suspects whose descriptions were withheld pending their arrest.

Teener electrocuted

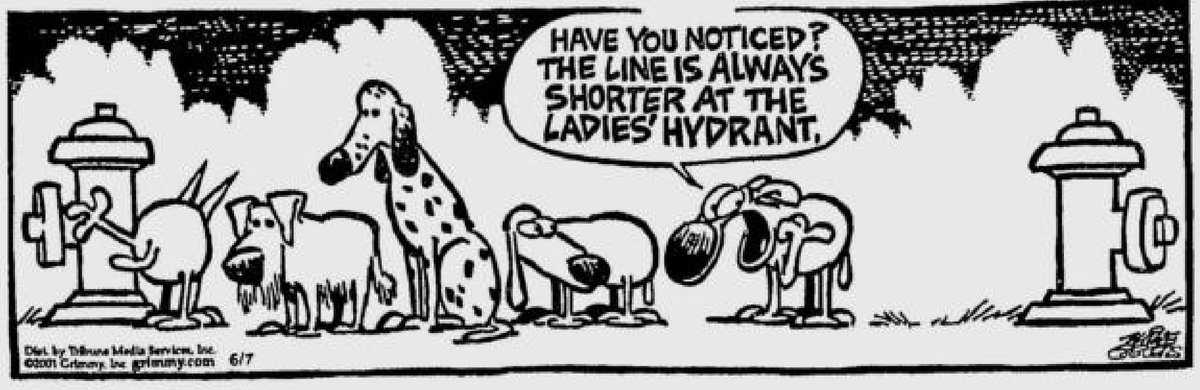
A 17-YEAR-OLD boy was electrocuted on top a transformer while allegedly trying to steal copper wires in Caloocan City Tuesday night. Authorities identified the victim as Danilo Salvador, 17, of 7th Street, 6th Avenue, Barangay Grace Park, Caloocan. Salvador was with his friends Jay Ar Apanejado, 14, and one "Utoy" when the incident occurred about 7 p.m. at a Manila Electric Co. post on 8th Street between 7th and 6th avenues, Caloocan. The boys were allegedly trying to steal loose copper wires to be sold at a nearby junk shop. But Salvador slipped and accidentally touched a live wire, before landing on a transformer. The victim's body was recovered by volunteer firefighters from the Filipino-Chinese Chamber Fire Prevention Association. *Christian Esguerra*

Dragon Ball 2 fans nabbed

TWO young fanatics of the popular anime show Dragon Ball Z were arrested Tuesday for allegedly stealing toys and P20,000 cash from a store in Valenzuela City. The suspects, aged 14 and 17 and residents of Valenzuela, sneaked into Gillshop and General Merchandise on T. Santiago Street, Barangay Canumay about 9 p.m. Monday. Police said they took an undetermined amount of Dragon Ball Z action figures and P20,000 cash. *Christian Esguerra*

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HAVE YOU NOTICED? THE LINE IS ALWAYS SHORTER AT THE LADIES' HYDRANT.
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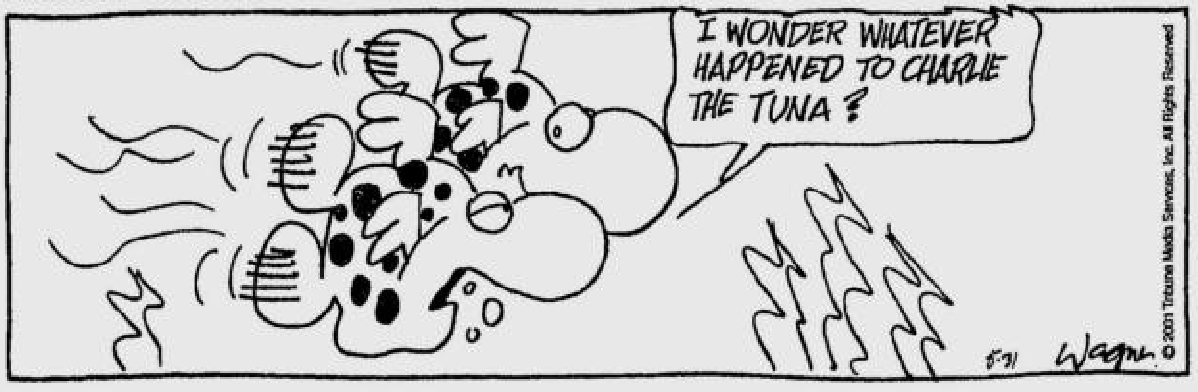
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I WONDER WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CHARLIE THE TUNA?
5-31 Wagner
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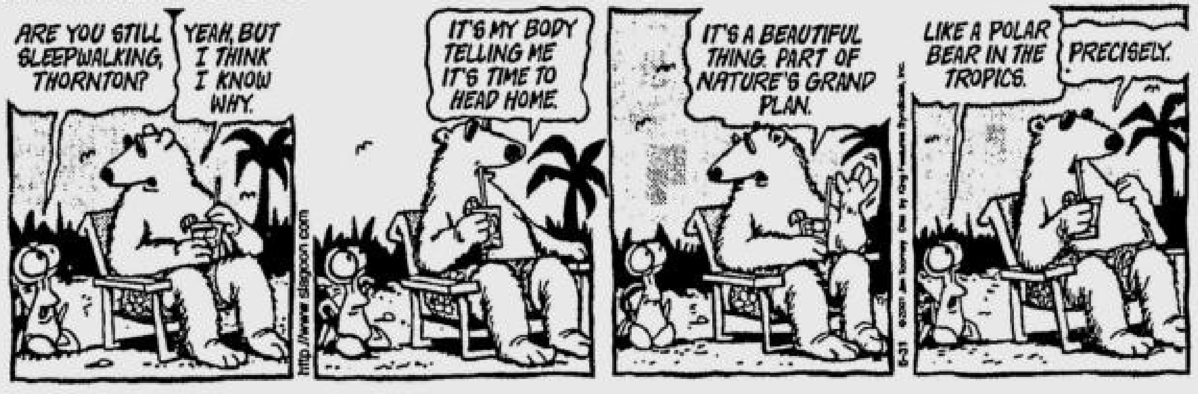
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


ARE YOU STILL SLEEPWALKING, THORNTON?
YEAH, BUT I THINK I KNOW WHY.
IT'S MY BODY TELLING ME IT'S TIME TO HEAD HOME.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING. PART OF NATURE'S GRAND PLAN.
LIKE A POLAR BEAR IN THE TROPICS.
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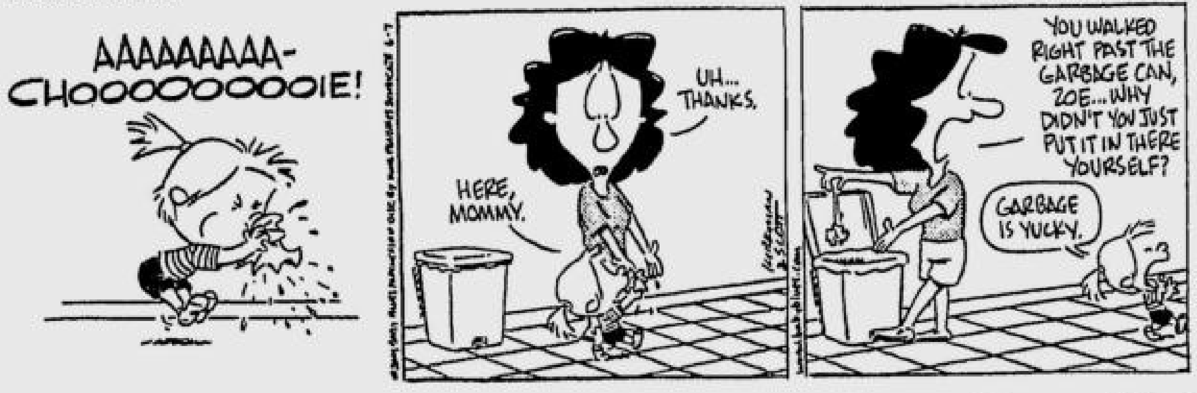
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


AAAAAAAAA-CHOOOOOOOOOIE!
HERE, MOMMY.
UH... THANKS.
YOU WALKED RIGHT PAST THE GARBAGE CAN, ZOE... WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST PUT IT IN THERE YOURSELF?
GARBAGE IS YUCKY.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Huey Lewis, Robbie Robertson, Marc Cohn, Warren Oates, Katherine Helmond

Happy Birthday: You must be decisive and confident in your pursuits if you wish to obtain the support you're looking for this year. You have what it takes to be successful so stop second-guessing yourself and start moving forward positively. If you don't put yourself on the line, you'll never know how much you can achieve. Your numbers: 9, 13, 28, 33, 42, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Boy, can you ever talk today! You should be giving a lecture or at the very least presenting your ideas to others. You should get involved in activities with friends or relatives.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be too trusting when it comes to personal finances. Your partner will be all too eager to spend your money. You would be wise to stay away from joint financial ventures.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Expect to be a little perplexed by your mate. Don't put your head in the sand. Listen to complaints and rectify the problem. If you tune out they may turn off.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make a difference at work, but forget about pleasing anyone at home. Don't let your personal life take over and ruin your chances of doing an award-winning job at work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your heart is a million miles away. Remember, if you really want to take that trip, you can if you're willing to put in a little extra work. Strive to obtain your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't get involved intimately with co-workers. You will have a hard time hiding your feelings if things don't work out. Change your looks. Self-improvement will help build confidence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your involvement in groups will be rewarding, but will also cause problems with your mate. Too much time spent with others will result in a jealous and angry lover.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may be feeling uncertain about your job. Talk to people who can help with career decisions. Make moves now rather than waiting until you don't have a job.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make changes that will help you look and feel more confident. Your openness will attract new lovers and friends. Plan to get out and experience more things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Mishaps due to preoccupation will be upsetting. Don't make unreasonable promises. Disagreements with your boss are sure to erupt if you speak your mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Become involved in something you believe in. You need to feel as if you have helped those less fortunate. You are big-hearted and can inspire others to be that way as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't bother trying to change your boss' mind. It's best to follow instructions carefully and not linger too long at the water cooler. Hard work will be the way to the boss' good side.

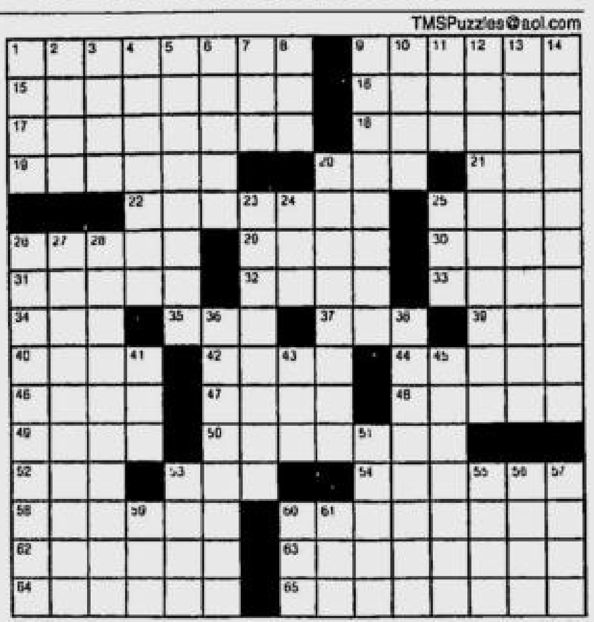
Birthday Baby: You are playful, determined and willing to do whatever is necessary to get attention. Your entertaining nature will help elicit a positive response and plenty of praise throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Sci-fi classic
9 Smells
15 Peppy person
16 Capital on the Mediterranean
17 Casa Grande resident
18 Pay tribute to
19 Stupefies with drink
20 Evergreen
21 Armistice Day mo.
22 "Airplane" co-star
25 Calcium oxide
26 Alter a skirt's length
29 Plenty
30 1904 Nobel winner Pavlov
31 Eradicate
32 Legend
33 Favorites
34 Pianist Cliburn
35 Nincompoop
37 Court divider
39 __ Grande
40 Sacred image
42 Ralph Lauren's company
44 Firebug's crime
46 "__ Las Vegas!"
47 Dove or Frost
48 Laments loudly
49 Frosted
50 Natural to a place
52 Remote
53 Neon or radon
54 Lead-ins
58 Sacred Egyptian birds
60 Flugelhorn-player Chuck
62 "Seinfeld" character
63 Ingenuity
64 Pockmarked
65 Designed anew

DOWN
1 Thick piece
2 Trunk spare
3 Rara follower
4 Changes building restrictions
5 Is unfaithful to
6 Remove lather
7 Period of history
8 Barbie's boyfriend
9 Another name for wormwood
10 Bring up
11 Peanut product
12 Annual muscleman contest
13 Robotic technology
14 Robert Louis and Teofilo
20 Reference citation
23 Satirizes
24 Crafty
25 Cup rim
26 Brought back to life
27 Possible to abolish
28 Of a city in Lower Saxony
36 Pacified
38 Putting up with
41 Scottish youngster
43 Maintained first place
45 Correct
51 After-dinner treats
53 Legendary golfer Sarazen
55 Vex
56 Formerly
57 Plant of the future
59 Take a chair
60 Besmirch
61 BBC comedy, "__ You Being Served?"


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

5/19/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	R	T	H		C	U	R	E		F	L	I	P
A	L	O	H	A		A	P	E	X		A	O	N	E
N	I	C	E	R		R	E	N	O		R	O	U	E
		K	E	E	P	O	N	T	R	U	C	K	I	N
A	L	E			O	L	D		C	R	E	S	T	S
G	A	R	A	G	E			S	I	N				
A	B	A	S	E		A	M	O	S		E	L	B	A
P	E	R	P	E	T	U	A	L	M	O	T	I	O	N
E	L	M	S		A	R	I	D		N	A	K	E	D
				C	I	A			C	E	L	E	R	Y
S	P	I	R	A	L		M	O	O			A	S	S
M	O	V	I	N	G	T	A	R	G	E	T	S		
I	R	I	S		A	R	T	S		S	A	H	I	B
L	E	E	K		T	O	T	O		P	R	O	V	E
E	D	D	Y		E	D	E	N		N	O	T	E	D

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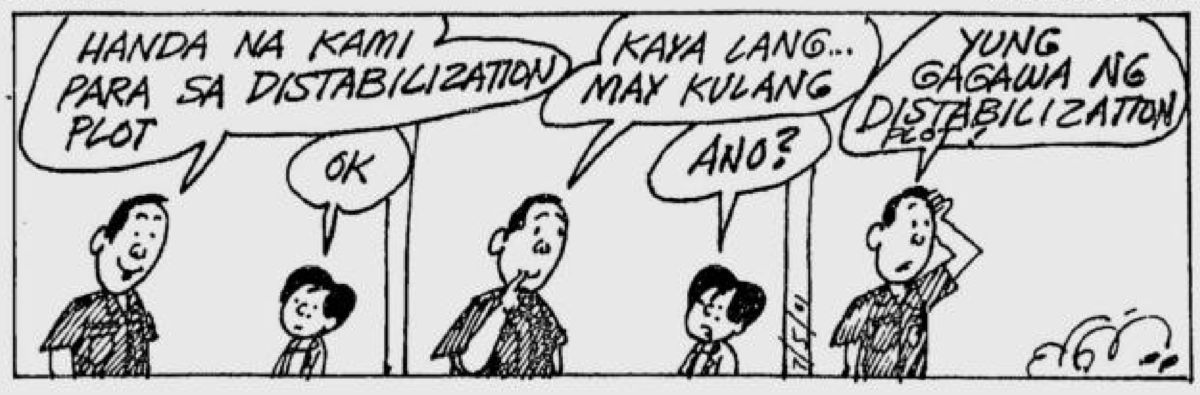
5/18/01

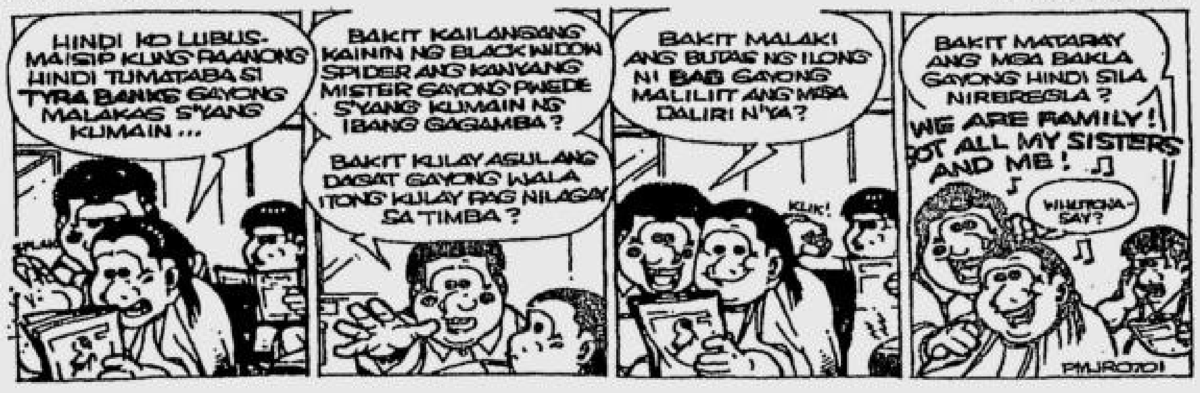
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HANDA NA KAMI PARA SA DISTABILIZATION PLOT
OK
KAYA LANG... MAY KULANG
ANO?
YUNG GAGAWA NG DISTABILIZATION PLOT!

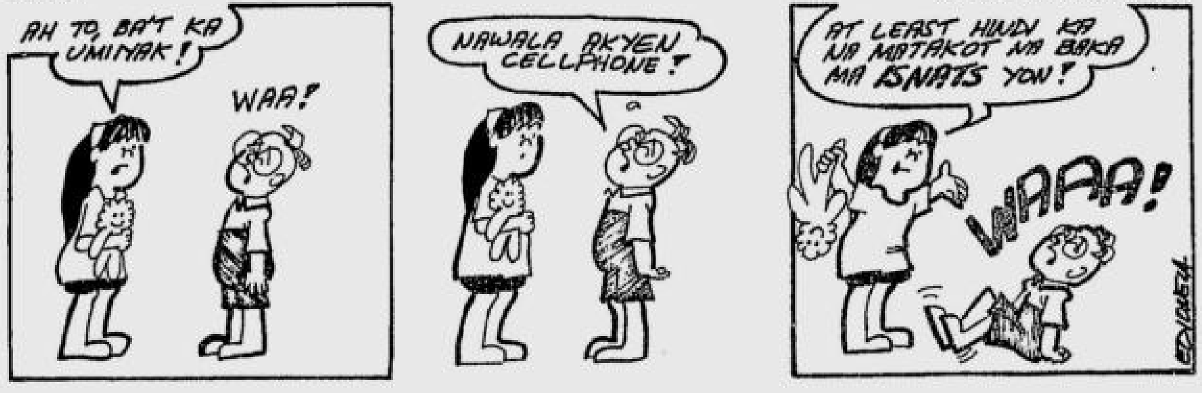
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI KO LUBUS-MAISIP KUNG PAANONG HINDI TUMATABA SI TYRA BANKS GAYONG MALAKAS S'YANG KUMAIN...
BAKIT KAILANGANG KAININ NG BLACK WIDOW SPIDER ANG KANYANG MISTER GAYONG PWEDE S'YANG KUMAIN NG IBANG GAGAMBA?
BAKIT KULAY ASUL ANG DAGAT GAYONG WALA ITONG KULAY PAG NILAGAY SA TIMBA?
BAKIT MALAKI ANG BUTAS NG ILONG NI BAB GAYONG MALILIIT ANG MGA DALIRI N'YA?
KLIK!
BAKIT MATARAY ANG MGA BAKLA GAYONG HINDI SILA NIRBREGLA?
WE ARE FAMILY! GOT ALL MY SISTERS AND ME!
WHUTCHA-SAY?
PMJR0701

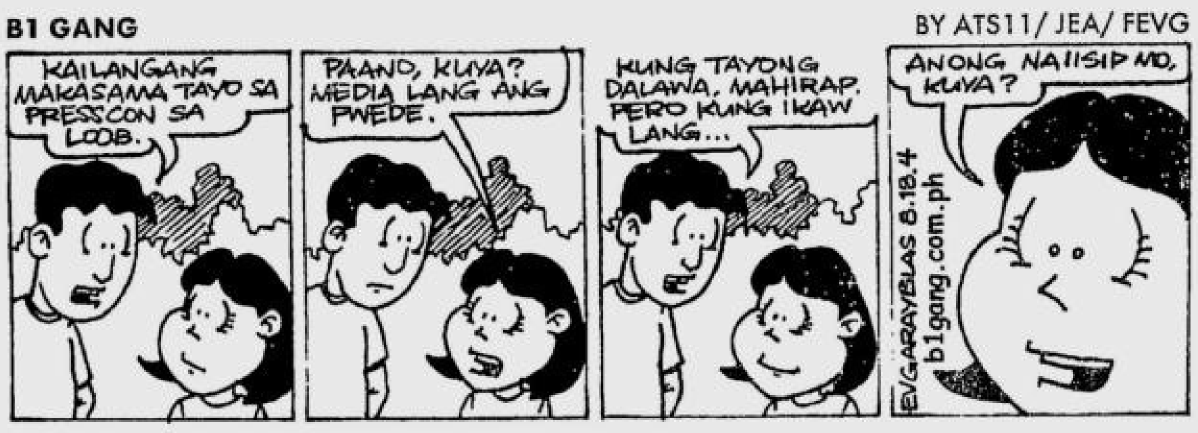
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


AH TO, BA'T KA UMIIYAK!
WAA!
NAWALA AKYEN CELLPHONE!
AT LEAST HINDI KA NA MATAKOT NA BAKA MA ISNATS YON!
WAAA!
EDIONELA

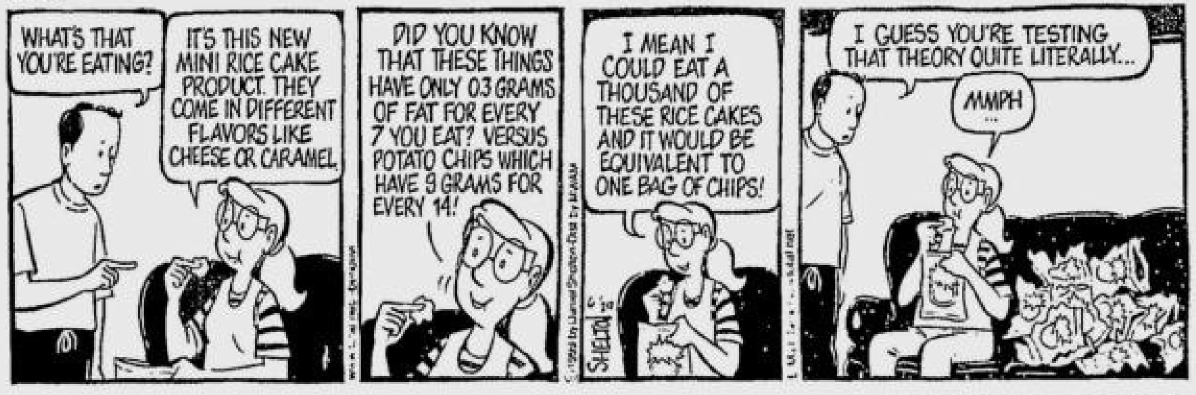
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


KAILANGANG MAKASAMA TAYO SA PRESSCON SA LOOB.
PAANO, KUYA? MEDIA LANG ANG PWEDE.
KUNG TAYONG DALAWA, MAHIRAP. PERO KUNG IKAW LANG...
ANONG NAIISIP MO, KUYA?
EVGARAYBLAS 6.18.4
b1gang.com.ph

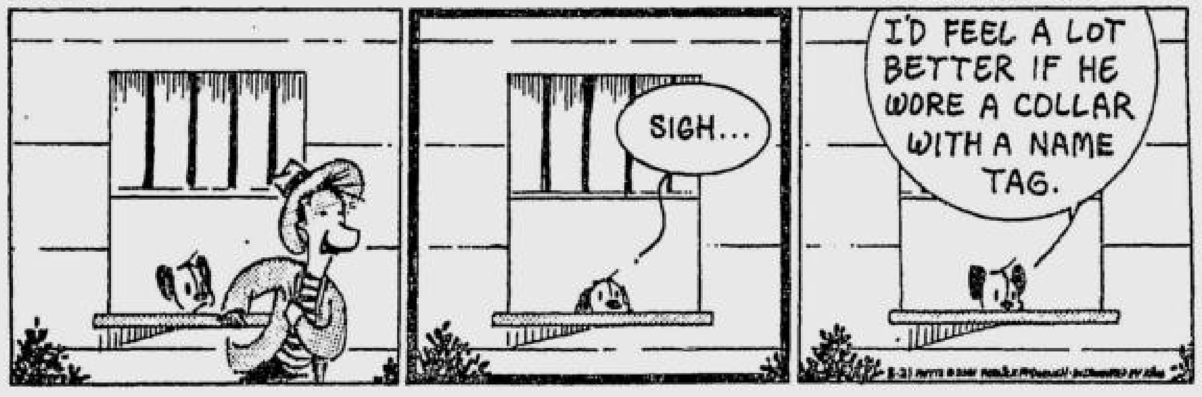
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE EATING?
IT'S THIS NEW MINI RICE CAKE PRODUCT. THEY COME IN DIFFERENT FLAVORS LIKE CHEESE OR CARAMEL.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THESE THINGS HAVE ONLY 0.3 GRAMS OF FAT FOR EVERY 7 YOU EAT? VERSUS POTATO CHIPS WHICH HAVE 9 GRAMS FOR EVERY 14!
I MEAN I COULD EAT A THOUSAND OF THESE RICE CAKES AND IT WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO ONE BAG OF CHIPS!
I GUESS YOU'RE TESTING THAT THEORY QUITE LITERALLY...
MMPH ...
SHELTON

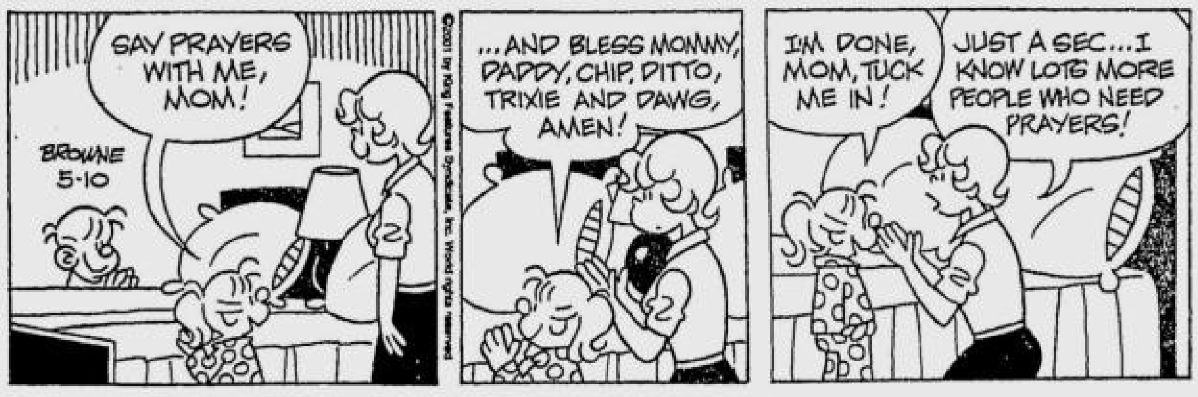
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SIGH...
I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF HE WORE A COLLAR WITH A NAME TAG.

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


SAY PRAYERS WITH ME, MOM!
BROWNE 5-10
...AND BLESS MOMMY, DADDY, CHIP, DITTO, TRIXIE AND DAWG, AMEN!
I'M DONE, MOM, TUCK ME IN!
JUST A SEC... I KNOW LOTS MORE PEOPLE WHO NEED PRAYERS!
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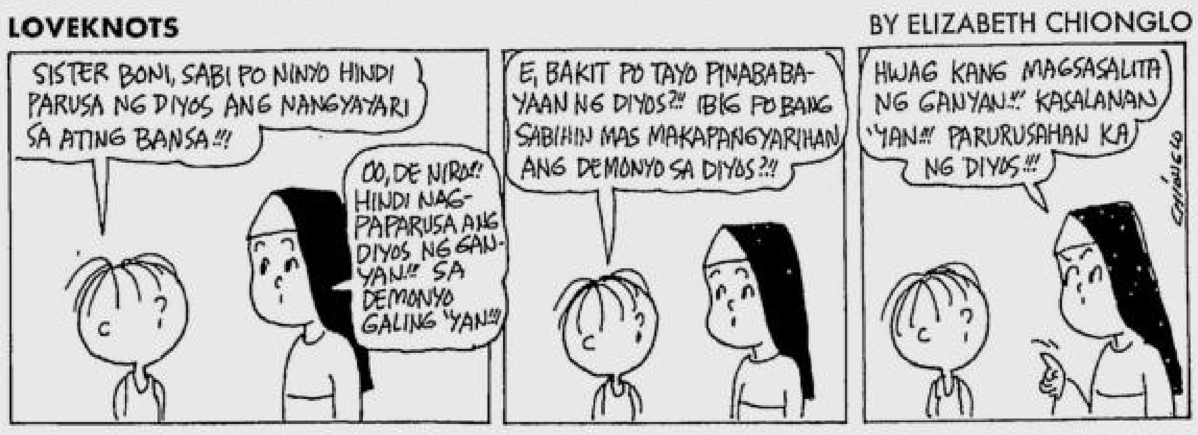
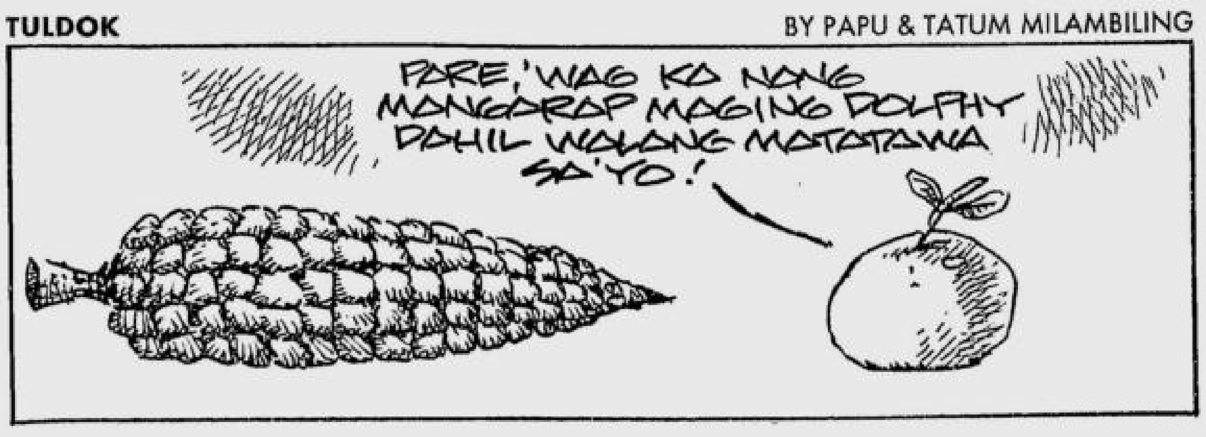
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI, SABI PO NINYO HINDI PARUSA NG DIYOS ANG NANGYAYARI SA ATING BANSA!!!
OO, DE NIRO!! HINDI NAGPAPARUSA ANG DIYOS NG GANYAN!! SA DEMONYO GALING 'YAN!!
E, BAKIT PO TAYO PINABABAYAAN NG DIYOS?!! IBIG PO BANG SABIHIN MAS MAKAPANGYARIHAN ANG DEMONYO SA DIYOS?!!
HWAG KANG MAGSASALITA NG GANYAN!!! KASALANAN 'YAN!!! PARURUSAHAN KA NG DIYOS!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


PARE, 'WAG KA NANG MANGARAP MAGING DOLPHY DAHIL WALANG MATATAWA SA'YO!

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

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4	TOMB RAIDER
5	ATLANTIS
6	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
7	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
8	MILA

SM CENTERPOINT
7140522 -7161416

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	SWORD FISH
4	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
5	TOMB RAIDER
6	PANINDA
7	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
8	ATLANTIS
9	MILA
10	CITY OF SINS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	ACCIDENTAL SPY
4	SWORD FISH
5	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
6	MILA
7	TOMB RAIDER
8	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
9	ATLANTIS
10	EVOLUTION
11	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
12	PANINDA

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	ATLANTIS
3	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
4	SWORD FISH
5	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
6	SWORD FISH
7	PANINDA
8	CITY OF SINS
9	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
10	ACCIDENTAL SPY
11	MILA
12	EVOLUTION

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	SWORD FISH
4	ATLANTIS
5	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
6	CITY OF SINS
7	MILA
8	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
9	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
10	EVOLUTION
11	ACCIDENTAL SPY
12	PANINDA

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	SWORD FISH
2	MILA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	MILA
4	PANINDA
5	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
6	ATLANTIS
7	SWORD FISH
8	TOMB RAIDER
9	ACCIDENTAL SPY
10	PEARL HARBOR
11	CITY OF SINS
12	EVOLUTION

SM SOUTHMALL
8066089 • 8066782

1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
2	CITY OF SINS
3	SWORD FISH
4	ATLANTIS
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
6	PANINDA
7	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
8	TOMB RAIDER
9	MILA
10	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820805

1	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	SWORD FISH

SM CEBU
2313808

1	SWORD FISH
2	EVOLUTION
3	PEARL HARBOR
4	POSSESSED
5	KASIBULAN
6	MILA
7	TOMB RAIDER

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	KAMASUTRA 2001
2	CLOSED
3	EVOLUTION
4	SWORD FISH
5	MILA
6	TOMB RAIDER
7	CLOSED
8	MAGENTA

SM PAMPANGA
2128865

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	PEARL HARBOR
4	MILA
5	KASIBULAN
6	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

SM SUCAT
8294975

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	SWORD FISH
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	ATLANTIS

SM DAVAO

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN 6 STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS
3	
4	
5	
6	

dts DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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formerly QUAD

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	SWORD FISH
4	CITY OF SIN

GLORIETTA 4

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	TOMB RAIDER in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	TOMB RAIDER THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ATLANTIS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SWORD FISH in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	TOMB RAIDER in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SWORD FISH in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! July 6 & 7 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	TOMB RAIDER THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SWORD FISH in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ATLANTIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
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1 (DDS)	TOMB RAIDER
2 (SDDS)	ATLANTIS
3 (DTS)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SWORD FISH
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ONE NIGHT AT McCOOLS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	CITY OF SIN
8 [illegible]	MILA
9 [illegible]	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
10 [illegible]	ACCIDENTAL SPY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	MILA
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	PANINDA
5	
6 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	ATLANTIS
2 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
3	PANINDA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	SWORD FISH
3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	ATLANTIS
3	TOMB RAIDER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWORD FISH
5	PANINDA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	MILA
2	PANINDA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	ATLANTIS
5	TOMB RAIDER
6	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
7	SWORD FISH
8	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	SWORD FISH

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MILA
2	EVOLUTION

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	MILA
2	PANINDA
3	TOMB RAIDER

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
A	PANINDA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	MILA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	PANINDA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	CITY OF SINS
3	PANINDA
4	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
5	ATLANTIS
6	MILA
7 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
8 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER
9 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
4 (SDDS)	ATLANTIS
5	MILA
6 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
7 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
8	ACCIDENTAL SPY
9	PANINDA

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
4	MILA
5 (SDDS)	ATLANTIS
6	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
7 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
8	PANINDA

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
4	ATLANTIS
5 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Lords	
Jennet	PANINDA

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1	SWORD FISH
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	ATLANTIS
4	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2	SWORD FISH
3	ATLANTIS
4	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
5	TOMB RAIDER

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	PANINDA
3	SWORD FISH
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	ATLANTIS

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	PANINDA
3	SWORD FISH
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2 (DTS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
4	ATLANTIS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2	PANINDA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4 (DTS)	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS)	SPOT
4	ATLANTIS
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	MILA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	TOMB RAIDER

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	MILA
3	MAGENTA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	ACCIDENTAL SPY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MILA
2 (DTS)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	MILA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	EVOLUTION
3	MILA
4	SWORD FISH

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	PANINDA
2	TOMB RAIDER

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	SWORD FISH
2	PANINDA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	ATLANTIS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 [illegible]	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	HEAD OVER HEELS
4 (DTS ES)	TOMB RAIDER

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- ☆ ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
- ☆ MILA
- ☆ ATLANTIS
- ☆ PANGAKO IKAW LANG
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

GALLERIA
632-9115-16

- ☆ SWORD FISH
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
- ☆ ATLANTIS
- ☆ PANGAKO IKAW LANG
- ☆ ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
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- ☆ PANGAKO IKAW LANG
- ☆ SWORD FISH

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- ☆ SWORD FISH
- ☆ PANGAKO IKAW LANG
- ☆ ATLANTIS
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
- ☆ ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

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- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ MILA
- ☆ EVOLUTION
- ☆ SPOT
- ☆ LUV TEXT

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MILA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MADAME X / GIRLS
ODEON	SWORD FISH
ODEON-2	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
ROBEN	PANINDA
TANDEM-1	KASIBULAN
TANDEM-2	SIN OF THE NIGHT
TIMES	3,000 MILES / WHAT WOMEN WANTS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
QUEZON-1	PANINDA
REMAR	SWORD FISH
REMAR-2	PANINDA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
CINEMA-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-3	MILA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-7	CITY OF SINS
CINEMA-8	MILA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-12	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-14	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MILA
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-3	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-4	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-5	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-6	SWORD FISH
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	VALENTINE
CINEMA-2	TOOMUCH FLESH
CINEMA-4	UHAW NA HAYOP
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS
CINEMA-2	BLONDIE
CINEMA-4	HOT LOVER

MAGUIRE

New Ang Lee movie to be shown at Glorietta

AYALA Cinemas and SkyFilms bring to Glorietta 4 the Philippine Premiere of director Ang Lee's latest masterpiece, "Ride with the Devil," a follow up to the critically acclaimed and award-winning "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

"Ride with the Devil" is a look at the bloody, intense conflict between the pro-Confederate Bushwackers and the pro-Union Jayhawkers in Missouri during the Civil War.

Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility," "Wedding Banquet") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts.

A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil.

The screenplay for "Ride with the Devil" is adapted by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus, from Daniel Woodrell's novel, "Woe to Live On."

Along the Kansas-Missouri border, childhood friends Jake Roedel (Tobey Maguire), the Missouri-raised son of a poor German immigrant, and Jack Bull Chiles (Skeet Ulrich), the son of a Missouri plantation owner, join up as Bushwhackers. These young men are, or must quickly learn to be, skilled gunmen and expert horsemen executing daring raids on the North's Union soldiers and sympathizers.

By 1862, their unit, headed by Black John (James Caviezel), includes the unstable Pitt Mackeson (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), the gentlemanly George Clyde (Simon Baker), and Clyde's loyal former slave Daniel Holt (Jeffrey Wright).

With a harsh winter looming, the Bushwhackers must disperse and find shelter. Several squad members hole up in a hidden hillside dugout.

Their vigil is brightened by the visits of compassionate young widow Sue Lee (Jewel). Then, the realities of the war intrude, splintering the group but uniting Jake and Holt in solidarity as outsiders.

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10:45 PM - Swordfish

Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication. Special discounts given to Louie's THX members

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Latest movie heroine zooms to the top

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ANGELINA Jolie zooms to superstardom with the current action-adventure blockbuster, "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider." But her success is by no means attributable to her talent and charisma alone.

In fact, she's nearly upstaged by the movie's production values and special effects, and the fact that the Lara Croft mystique is popular in its own right, having gained an avid following in its original form as a computer game.

Still, the production doesn't take any chances. Its opening sequence alone is good for a huge adrenaline rush, as Lady Croft engages a ferocious robot in a fight to the death.

Alas, it turns out that the movie is pulling the viewer's leg: Lara is only "practicing," and the deadly robot is in fact her high-tech sparring partner.

This is a turn-off, but it's small potatoes to the disappointment that sets in when the movie's lightweight plot tries to get going: the real-life mission that our heroine has been training for involves the perfect alignment of all of the planets of our solar system, a heavenly phenomenon that only occurs every 5,000 years.

Great, but what's this got to do with Lara Croft? Well it appears that, when the perfect alignment takes place, a window is opened through which anyone in possession of a magical triangle can virtually become a god.—Huh?!

Well, not really, *completely* a god, just the master of time and space. Duh . . .

As you can imagine, some avaricious power brokers are itching to get their sweaty hands on that all-powerful triangle, but Lara Croft stands in the way of their dastardly ambition.

Practically all by her lonesome, she dispatches dozens of the power brokers' goonish minions with her arsenal of state-of-the-art weaponry, plus a well-placed kick to the cranium, or two. Incredible? Well, she isn't a super-heroine for nothing.

Thus far, Lady Croft is coming across like an animated figure in a computer game. So, to humanize her, the movie gives her a father complex (in *absentia*).

It appears that her beloved father died many years ago and she's been longing to get reunited with him all this time, so when the magic triangle promises to bring her father back to life, she's tempted to play along with the bad guys in the movie.

This accounts for the only scene in the film that features both Ms Jolie and her real-life dad, **Jon Voight** (as her deceased father come suddenly alive due to the triangle's magical disruption of the rules of time and space).

Voight and his daughter are tremulous and teary-eyed in this sequence, which by the way, mimics their real-life situation, since Voight has also been absent from his daughter's life for the longest time.

Right after that, however, it's back to the digital marvels and technical flourishes as the movie revs up to its big, slam-bang finale.

We're still reeling from all that high-tech *sturm und drang* when we leave the theater, but we find ourselves feeling light-headed for yet another reason: the film is big, brash and loud, but it's also a tub of cinematic popcorn, which quickly leaves you hungry for something—well, something *more*.

Congratulations to Angelina Jolie for making the most of this clangorous star-making showcase, but it looks like she had to leave much of her acting talent outside the studio door when she shot this film. Now that she's a certified superstar, she must regain her artistic bearings and move on to something much, much more.

Jaya holds major concert at the Big Dome

SHOWS

VIVA Concerts, the same production which presented the phenomenal Valentine show of Zsa Zsa Padilla, Freestyle and Lani Misalucha billed as "The Love Concert," now brings the Queen of Soul in a major concert, "Jaya: Unleashed," July 28 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Known for her soulful voice and stirring performances, Jaya has performed in several hit shows here and abroad and has had numerous hit songs to her name.

With her numerous achievements in the field of music, Jaya is now considered as one of the most formidable figures in the local music scene.

In her Big Dome concert, Jaya promises to give audiences a glimpse of her kind of music. Special guests are Janno Gibbs, Jeremiah and Regine Velasquez.

"Jaya: Unleashed" is also produced by Uniprom Inc. Direction is by Rowell Santiago. Musical direction is by Marc Lopez.

Tickets to the concert are at P1,200, P800, P600, P300 and P100. They are available at the Araneta Ticketnet Office (911-5555), SM Ticketnet outlets and Viva Concerts (413-2572).

JAYA

'South Pacific'

PERFORMING Artists International (PAI) presents a special adaptation of "South Pacific," the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical based on James Michener's bestseller, "Tales of the South Pacific."

PAI's adaptation integrates the musical with today's blockbuster, "Pearl Harbor." It will be staged 9 tonight at the Alegria Lounge.

Special guest Dulce will deliver her signature haunting call to "Bali Ha'i," where Bloody Mary, played by talent manager Angie Magbanua, tries to lure Lt. Cable (Lance Raymundo) whom she wants for her beautiful daughter, Liat (Pamela Mendoza).

Veteran theater artist Chinggoy Alonso is Emile de Becque, the French bon vivant planter who falls in love with small-town gal Ensign Nelly Forbush (Josephine Roces Chavez).

The show is sponsored by Pagcor. For details, call 523-8691 to 96.

South Border anniversary

SOUTH Border celebrates its anniversary on July 15 with a special concert at Padi's Mindave Mindanao Avenue and Congressional Avenue, Quezon City.

Reaping 35 awards, including 20 Awit Awards and seven Katha Awards, South Border has become one of Asia's most multi-awarded bands.

Padi's Mindave owner and award-winning writer Wilson Y. Lee Flores admires South Border for their members' professionalism, musical artistry and humility.

The South Border anniversary concert is produced by Mindave Entertainment Corp., which will also hold a Budweiser show on July 6 at Padi's Mindave, a concert with Barbie's Cradle on July 24 and a special concert with Rivermaya on Aug. 1.

The group's three previous albums were phenomenal platinum and gold records.

South Border is composed of keyboardist and chief songwriter Jay Durias, bassist Randolf Balane, drummer Paul Benitez, vocalist Luke Mejares, guitarist Butch Victoriano and saxophonist and UP music student Reynaldo Junasa.

Padi's Mindave is a unique three-story restaurant, bar, art gallery and entertainment center. For inquiries, call 453-0080/ 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

98 Degrees guests

ASIA'S Songbird Regine Velasquez will be the special guest in the "One Night Only" 98 Degrees concert tomorrow night at Araneta Coliseum.

Also sharing the stage with the popular boy band are South Border and Barbie's Cradle.

98 Degrees are now on a world tour to promote their latest multi-platinum album, "Revelation," which spawned such major hits worldwide as "Give Me Just One Night (Una Noche)," "I Do Cherish You," "My Everything," "The Hardest Thing," and "Invisible Man."

Showtime is 8 p.m. Call Ticketnet at 911-5555 or 911-4087.

Another animated . . .

(From page A24)

people were like at the very start of the movie, viewers were deprived of the chance to imagine for themselves what these looked like. Had the prologue been eliminated, the audience could have been more surprised and awed by the "rediscovery" of Atlantis halfway into the movie.

As someone so eloquently put it many years ago, "Less is more."

As a whole, however, it's difficult to find fault in a movie that celebrates the joyful spirit of exploration and discovery the way "Atlantis" does. This is a movie that has the power to inspire children to become interested in ancient languages and lost cities. If just one child decides to become a linguist or an archeologist after watching "Atlantis," then Disney's latest effort is an unqualified success, at least in my book.

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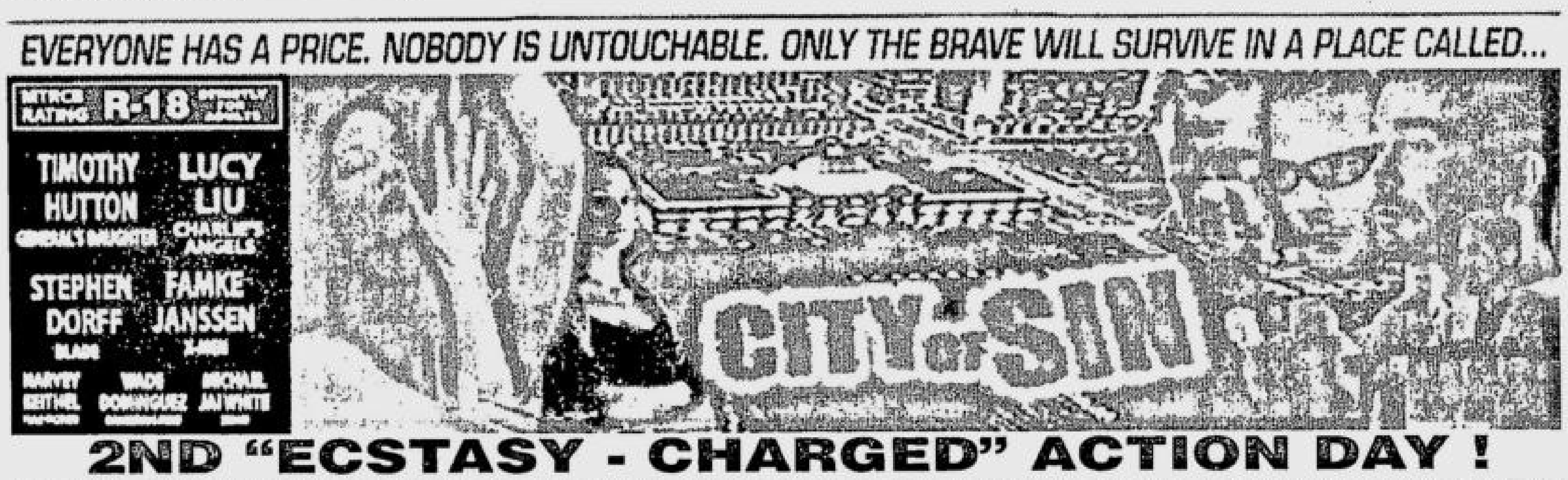

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ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S - R 18 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SWORD FISH - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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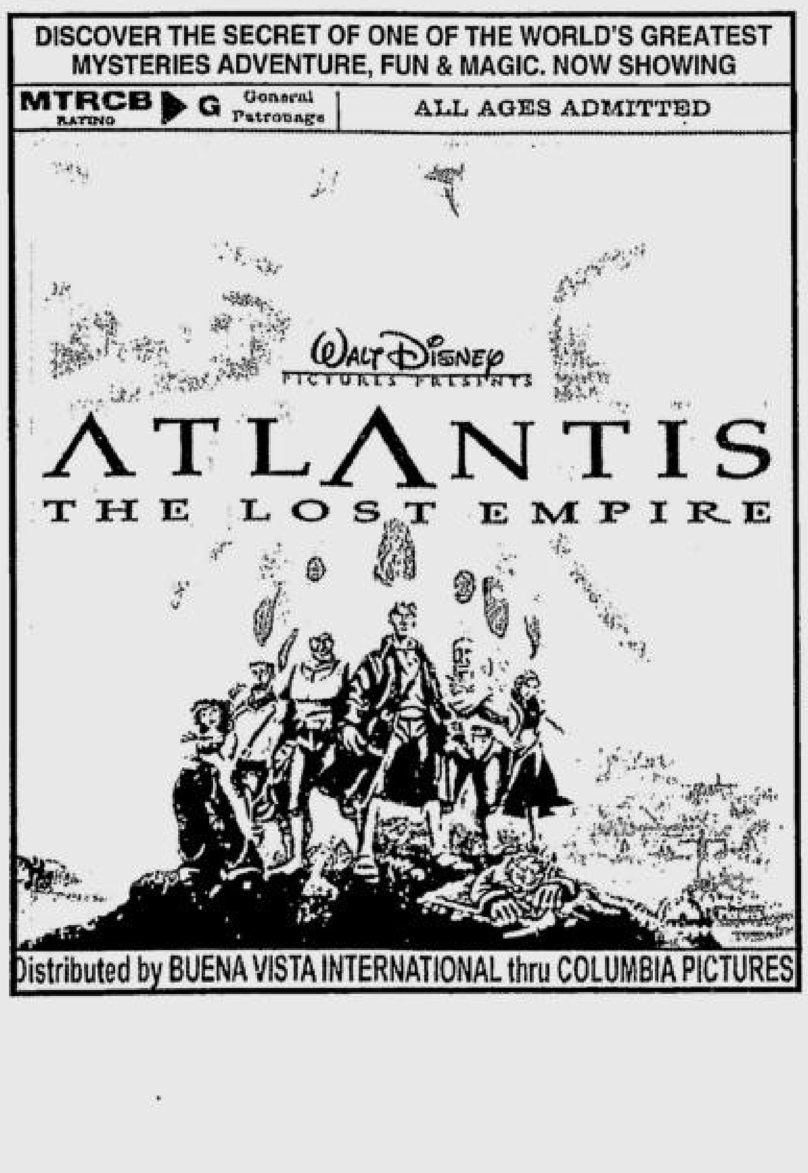

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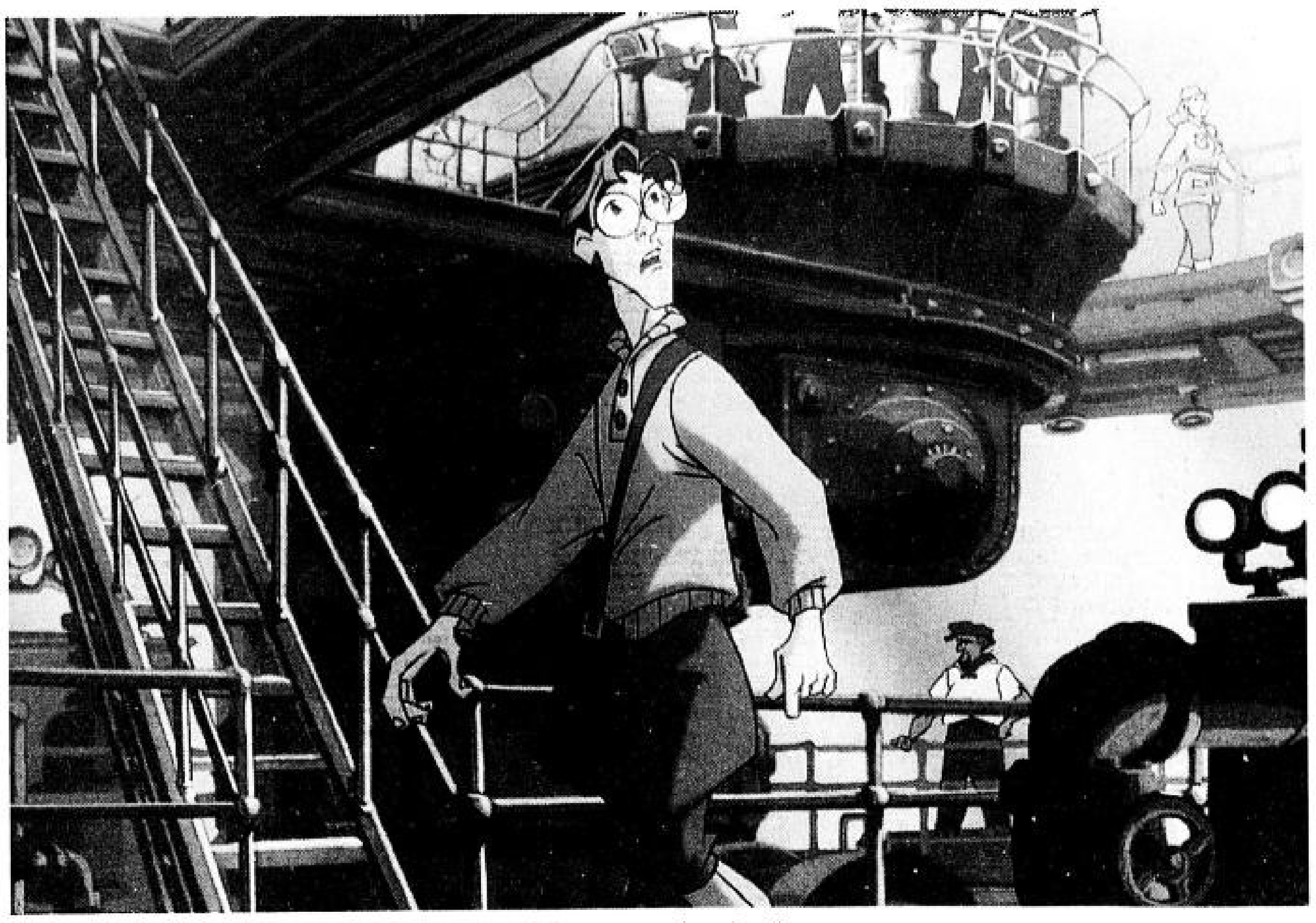
ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



LOST AND FOUND. "Atlantis" celebrates the joy of discovery and exploration.

'ATLANTIS'

Another animated wonder from the House of Mouse

By PAUL DAZA

REVIEW

IF YOU believe that the cartoon features produced by the Walt Disney Co. has become as formulaic and predictable as an episode of "Sesame Street," you're in for a surprise. The studio's newest animated showstopper, "Atlantis," shows us that Disney is still at the top of its game in terms of technical innovation, visual design, and story content.

Unlike recent emotional excursions like "Tarzan" and "Mulan," "Atlantis" is an action-packed adventure in the vein of the "Indiana Jones" and "Mummy" movies. Eschewing songs for thrilling chases and comedic macho posturing, "Atlantis" will probably strike enthusiastic chords in young boys and the slightly older fans of Japanese anime.

Teens weaned on video games like "Counter Strike" may find the G-rated storyline too wholesome for their taste, but they may be drawn (pun intended) by the comic book-inspired look of the movie.

Visually, "Atlantis" is very different from what we're used to seeing from the House of Mouse. The design of the characters, for instance, owes more to the sleek, sexy and sinewy style of Japanese anime and Marvel Comics than it does to traditional Disney character design, which is famous for humans and furry animals with large, expressive eyes and exaggerated body shapes.

The most pivotal female character in "Atlantis" is Princess Kida, and she looks a lot like Storm from the "X-Men" movie, with her dark skin, white hair and glowing eyes. Leading man Milo Thatch looks exactly like Peter Parker the way he's drawn by renowned comic book artist Mark Bagley in the immensely popular "Ultimate Spider-Man" comic books: very thin with messy brown hair and unusually large eyeglasses.

Another eccentric touch in "Atlantis" is that most of the characters have triangular fingernails as compared to the normal, sickle-shaped ones.

Futuristic, post-apocalyptic

Because the events depicted in "Atlantis" take place in 1914, the movie is filled with all kinds of gigantic contraptions made of iron and steel, making it look like a homage to the Industrial Age. The design of the various vessels used in the search for Atlantis also recalls another giant from the 19th century: Jules Verne, the author of "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

The fantastic design of Atlantis itself, however, appears to have been inspired by Japanese anime. The Atlantean armada seen briefly in the prologue would not have been out of place in an episode of "Daimos" or "Voltes V." Elements of futuristic, post-apocalyptic cartoons like "Akira" are recalled in scenes where bolts of blinding white light emanate from mysterious, New Age power sources and turbulent winds trigger fear and alarm on a surprised populace.

The story structure of "Atlantis" is also inspired by other sources, particularly Gene Rodenberry's Star Trek TV series and the science fiction bestsellers of Michael Crichton. In "Star Trek," "Jurassic Park," "Congo," and "Sphere," these brilliant men popularized the notion that the best people to have in an expedition are scientists and engineers from different disciplines.

Motley crew

In "Atlantis," the motley crew consists of a linguist, a digger, an explosives expert, a military tactician, a doctor, a cook and a couple of others. And just like in "Jurassic Park," it takes an eccentric, aging millionaire to fund an enterprise that everyone perceives as a waste of time and money.

How far we've come from the carefree movies of the Eighties, when all it took to find and retrieve an archeological treasure was one Indiana Jones!

This isn't to say that "Atlantis" is totally derivative. The interplay of "Atlantis'" explorers is far more amusing than anything Crichton or Rodenberry ever came up with. For instance, there's a crusty communications expert named Mrs. Packard who has a very nonchalant attitude about everyone's impending death, which she feels is always just around the corner.

There's also a geologist named Mole who anticipates each digging with the glee of a child building his first sandcastle, and an ammunitions expert, Vinny, who's embarrassed to reveal that he started his career selling flowers.

Another colorful female is the mechanic, Audrey, who is tomboyish because her father raised her to be the son he never had.

More than the special effects and the spectacular visuals, the non-formulaic characters emerged as my favorite ingredients from "Atlantis."

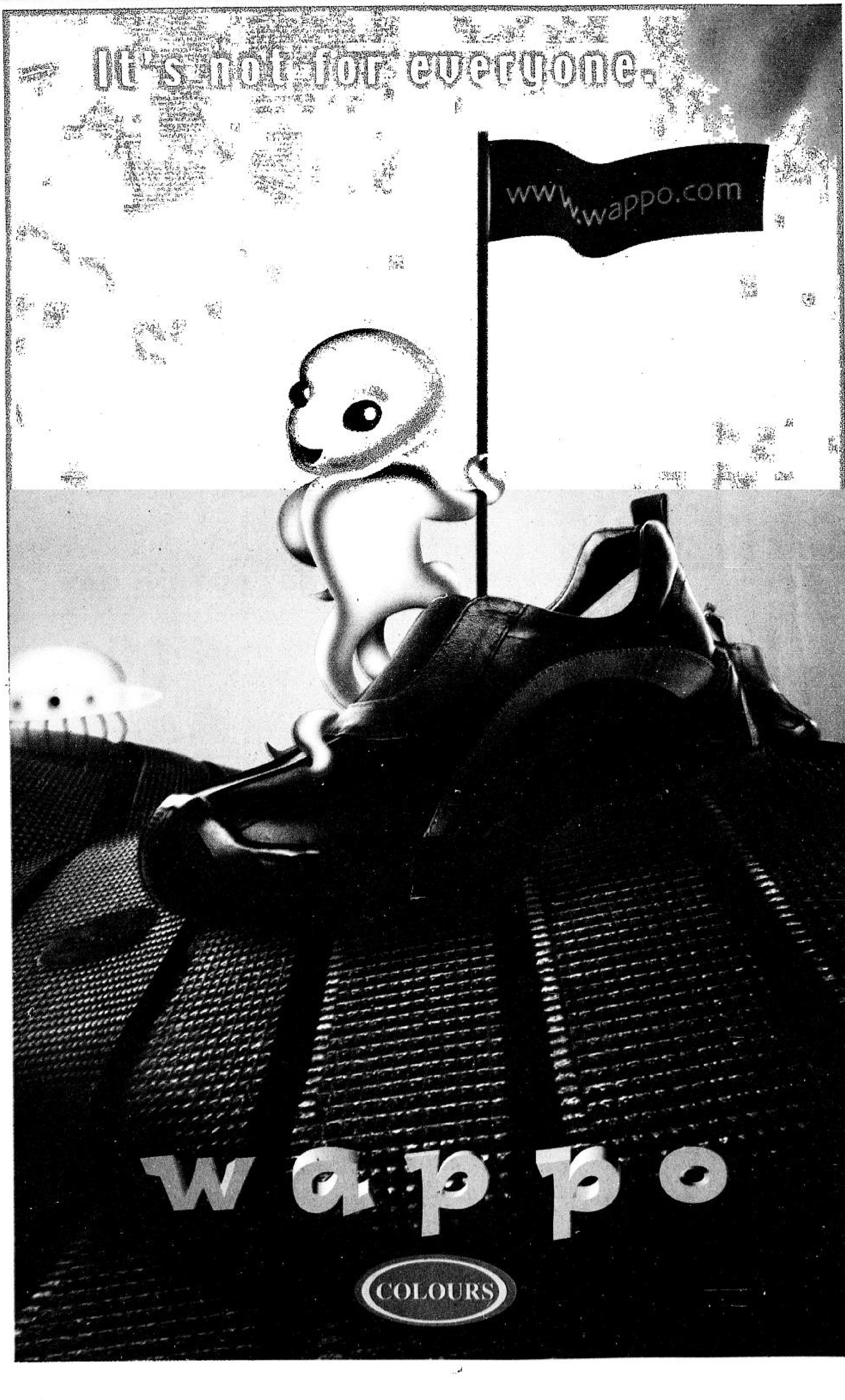
Complaint

Also deserving of much praise is the art direction, which employed a nearly monochromatic color scheme during the last two thirds of the movie. The underwater setting, which was enhanced by soothing blues and greens, makes "Atlantis" a very relaxing movie to watch.

I particularly enjoyed the scene where Milo and Princess Kida are swimming together at night in search of clues to solve the riddle of the demise of Atlantis. The scene is staged like a love scene, with moments of graceful, exquisite beauty sandwiched between moments of dread and danger.

My only outright complaint about the movie has to do with the prologue. The film would have been better without it because it shows how advanced Atlantis and the Atlanteans were before they vanished. By showing what the city and her

ANOTHER/ A23



BUSINESS

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Peso weakness to trim forex reserves

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has expressed concern that a prolonged peso weakness could lead to a deterioration in the country's gross international reserves.

"Our GIR might be affected if the peso would not recover fast. It might be in the low end of $14 billion and if the peso continues to slide, it might even go (below that target)," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

The country's dollar reserves are usually affected every time the peso depreciates as the Bangko Sentral needs to dip into such dollar funds to defend the peso.

The GIR stood at $14.44 billion as of end-May.

Some traders claimed that during the height of the peso's weakness following the "Juetengate" scandal last year, the Bangko Sentral was selling an average $50 million a day at the Philippine Dealing System where foreign exchange trading is conducted.

The aggressive move by the Bangko Sentral reportedly dragged the GIR down to as low as $13 billion, although this was strongly denied by Buenaventura. The Bangko Sentral was able to rebuild the country's reserves to a little over $15 billion by the end of 2000.

Traders yesterday said the central bank had started selling dollars to the market since last Tuesday when the Bangko Sentral took some $40 million from its vaults and sold it at the Philippine Dealing System to correct a dollar shortage that was pushing the peso down.

A trader from a local bank said the Bangko Sentral sold about $30 million yesterday through a US and a European lender.

Buenaventura said that among the Bangko Sentral's monetary targets, only the gross reserves would be affected by the recent peso weakness.

However, he was counting on inflow from the government's foreign borrowings as well as proceeds of a bond float of a telecommunications firm to beef up the reserves and, in turn, buoy the peso.

"There would be a substantial inflow next week partly from the government's foreign borrowings," the central bank governor said.

The Department of Finance was scheduled to sign with JP Morgan Chase yesterday a $100-million borrowing.

Buenaventura also raised yesterday the possibility of an impending intervention. "We may start providing liquidity, we are looking at it right now," he said.

From an original GIR target of $16 billion, the central bank has asked the International Monetary Fund to reduce the dollar reserves target this year to a range of $14 billion to $15 billion or to a level the same as last year.

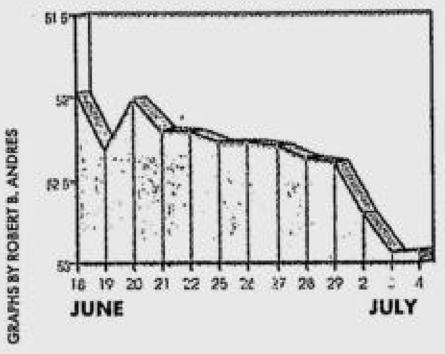
Comprised mostly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank. Gross reserves also include gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the IMF.

The country still has an outstanding $2-billion loan with the IMF used during the Asian crisis to support its external accounts position.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

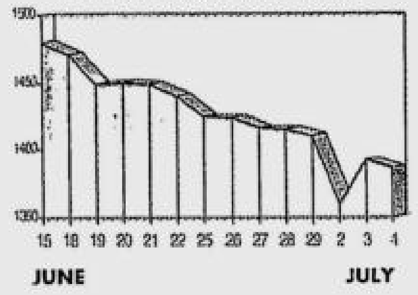
P52.93 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
July 4, 2001

¥124.78 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.78 as of 5 p.m.,
July 4, 2001

GOLD:$267.60/268.10
per ounce Hong Kong,
July 4, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end down on weak peso

STOCKS finished lower Wednesday—their 10th straight session of decline—on foreign selling, triggered by the weak peso and lingering concerns over the country's political and economic outlook, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 6.08 points or 0.4 percent to 1,385.99 after shedding 0.3 percent Tuesday.

The index has given up 4.4 percent since June 21.

The market failed to sustain its gains during the early part of trading as foreign sellers took advantage of the mild rise to unload their shares, said BPI Securities assistant vice president Spencer Yap.

"The weak peso helped trigger the market sell-off and put an end to the run-up," said Yap.

The dollar reached as high as P53.10 in morning trading after closing at 52.94 Tuesday, on strong corporate demand.

Yap said a host of negative factors are preventing the market from staging a sustainable rally. Among the factors are the global economic slowdown, which is hurting the country's economy, and the recent Abu Sayyaf kidnappings. *AP*

Deal between PNCC, oil firms bucked

ENERGY Secretary Vincent S. Perez said he wanted the Philippine National Construction Corp. to allow new oil players to set up retail stations in the North and Luzon expressways so that competition in the industry would grow.

Perez said in a briefing early this week that more gas stations would drive down prices and show the benefits of deregulation.

"The (recent) price increases are really due to the rising cost of crude, not because of deregulation," the secretary said.

Perez echoed the views of his predecessor Jose Isidro Camacho, saying deregulation was "still a work in progress" and that its benefits were yet to be seen because there were still very few retail stations.

He said one major reason was an existing memorandum of understanding between PNCC and the three big oil companies—Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Petron Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc.—giving them exclusive rights to build service stations in the North and South Luzon expressways.

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YOUR WORLD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Gain with the wind

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IF you followed the latest conference of "experts," you'd think that this cute administration of Gloriaetta is becoming too much of a spoiled brat. Imagine, the administration is squandering the gains of Edsa III Hmm. It's gain with the wind?

Sure, we gained a lot from Edsa II. We were able to wipe out the national debt. We convinced big businesses to pay the correct amount of taxes. We solved the century-old problem of graft and corruption. We finally castrated all those dollar speculators!

What was accomplished by Edsa II was, like it or not, the military shoved out an incompetent crook. Look, he was caught! Such incompetence! To me, it was the only gain from Edsa II. In the same manner, we gained nothing from Edsa Tres.

When people refer to Edsa II like it was the Second Coming, I sense they must have taken part in it one way or another. In effect, Gloriaetta owes them big-time. How dare this cute administration, ahh, "squander" what they bequeathed Gloriaetta!

* * *

IT seems, through their much-publicized conference, the "experts" only sought to tell this cute administration, in the most polite manner possible, that it is goofing off. It has done nothing except clear the presidency of suspicion of being corrupt.

Frankly, it sounds too sanctimonious to me. Really, what is there to squander? Right after Edsa II, the country's credit rating abroad was even in danger of being downgraded. Moreover, "experts" still think they know better than everybody else.

Supposedly, all those "experts" in the conference came from all walks of life, namely, the cloistered world of the academe and the corporate think-tanks. But, hey, don't be fooled by their lifestyle.

Through daring and determination, they actually solve whole blackboards of economic equation to find out the value of "Y." The solution then goes to the actual life-threatening drawing of whole blackboards of charts and graphs. Dangerous job!

* * *

AND did I hear somebody say that the conference was "not an organized conspiracy" against this cute administration, and that it was merely a "gathering." All right, *sige na nga*, it was just a chance encounter. Only, it was planned to be held at a five-star hotel.

So spontaneous was its outpouring of criticism for this cute administration, the conference of "experts" actually did all that was humanly possible to get a lot of publicity. That kind of simple gathering!

Look, before the conference even started, its findings were already leaked to media. The main report, based on the pre-conference publicity, i.e. leak, would point out the "failure" of this cute administration to offer its own vision and agenda.

Gloriaetta must react to such a strong statement. So what did she do? In a desperate attempt to save some of the gains from Edsa II, Gloriaetta told her Cabinet to, er, well, "reflect" on the points that were leaked, este, raised, by the "experts."

I don't know about you, but when I reflect on something, I actually do nothing about it. You know—I just think and think and think!

For all you know, maybe Gloriaetta meant something else.

* * *

IN my own reflection, I remembered the words of a real live homemaker, who must take care of a real live family with meager means. She said she really couldn't care about vision as long as Gloriaetta does something about corruption.

Really, to certain bankers and executives that I talked to, if Gloriaetta can reduce graft and corruption just a little bit, it will mean a lot for the country. Such an agenda can only be done starting from the top. And so far, Gloriaetta is clean.

Some government contractor will swear that, particularly in the provinces, less than 50 percent of the allocation for projects actually goes to them. What happens to the rest is up to the senator, congressman, mayor, government engineers, barangay chair, etc.

Moreover, it's standard practice to give out so-called finder's fee. This is usually 10 percent. It normally goes to anybody who is influential enough to have anything to do with the project. Like the mayor's wife, who someday will also be the mayor.

* * *

NOW it's hard to say the same thing about the police. In the police force, wives have as much rousing power as decaf coffee. The police is one sector for which Gloriaetta will become divinity to us down here, if only she can clean it up.

Of course, I am not referring to that boo-boo of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina about a certain kidnapping being staged by somebody from the opposition. No, not at all. Lina is as respected in the police as dried mucus.

I am referring to guns. The Philippine National Police, I heard, is back to issuing permits for people to carry guns. The permits are more special than the firearms licenses. They allow you to bring guns, say, to the golf course.

They are not without costs. And I mean, prohibitive "for the boys" costs. I heard that the going rate now stands at P8,000 per permit. With some 300,000 permits issued every year, that's a fortune. It's about P2.4 billion. And all of it "for the boys!"

ASB asks SEC to approve sale of 28% stake in DBS

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE ASB group of companies has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to approve the sale of its 28-percent stake in DBS Bank Philippines Inc. to the Development Bank of Singapore for P734.2 million.

The equities to be sold include those held by ASB owner Luke Roxas.

The sale, if approved, is expected to pave the way for the Bank of the Philippine Islands, the country's second-largest lender, to absorb DBS Bank Philippines.

BPI has said it will pursue a merger with DBS Bank Philippines as soon as the bank resolves ownership issues involving ASB's and Roxas' combined stake.

Singapore's DBS owns 21 percent of BPI, and a merger will allow the foreign bank to raise its stake in BPI to roughly 25 percent, according to a source familiar with the matter.

In a petition it filed on June 25, ASB asked the Securities and Exchange Commission if it could offset the P734 million in proceeds from the sale of its stake in DBS Bank Philippines against its P449-million debt to DBS.

ASB also asked the commission if it could use P200 million from the sale of its stake in DBS Bank Philippines as an "asset pool" that would allow it to resume construction of the BSA Twin Towers.

DBS cannot acquire ASB's 28-percent stake in DBS Bank Philippines without the SEC's approval.

In April, a three-member hearing panel of the SEC approved ASB's proposed plan to repay over P12 billion in debts.

Two creditor banks, however, asked the commission en banc, its policy-making body, to overturn the hearing panel's decision.

In a statement, meanwhile, ASB said it had signed a memorandum of agreement with Allied Banking Corp. to settle claims amounting to over P1.03 billion.

Under the agreement, ASB Realty Corp. and ASB Development Corp. agreed to release all its rights, titles and interests in certain real properties mortgaged in favor of Allied Bank.

For its part, the bank agreed that, upon completion of the transfer of the mortgaged assets, it would cancel and discharge the first lien over real properties, including several units in the group's condominium projects.

ASB owes some P3.9 billion to over 700 unsecured individual creditors and over P5 billion to various banks, including Allied Bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., United Coconut Planters Bank, Equitable PCI Bank Inc., and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

NTC to set up telecenters, PCs in 278 towns

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

TO bridge the "digital divide," the National Telecommunications Commission is planning to set up at least one telecenter and two computers with Internet access in 278 unserved and underserved towns this year.

This is part of the government's "Alternative Communications Program" through the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Funding for the project will come from the private sector through the privatization of government telecommunications facilities and backbone.

"As of now, there is no appraisal of the cost yet. This is still subject to bidding," NTC chief Eliseo Rio said in an interview.

The telecommunications office and the Armed Forces of the Philippines communications backbone are some of the facilities that will be offered to interested private entities for bidding.

Itogon-Suyoc seeks exemption from PSE's price-discount rule

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

ITOGON-SUYOC Mines Inc. is seeking an exemption from the Philippine Stock Exchange's price-discount rule so it can close a deal with Philweb.com Inc, the technology holding firm of former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin.

Under the PSE's rules, listed companies are prohibited from selling shares to a new investor at a hefty price discount to prevent the unfair dilution of equities held by other shareholders.

In a July 3 letter to PSE president Ramon Garcia, Itogon-Suyoc president Alberto Montilla sought clearance from the local bourse to accept a private placement from Philweb, which agreed Monday to subscribe to 12 billion unissued shares of Itogon-Suyoc's authorized capital stock at a par value of one centavo each.

The deal will bring Itogon-Suyoc's subscribed shares to 30 billion, giving Ongpin's group a 40-percent controlling stake.

Eagle Equities Inc. president and former PSE governor Joseph Roxas warned, however, that Itogon-Suyoc would violate the stock exchange's price-discount rule should it push through with a buy-in deal with Philweb at a par value of one centavo per share. It was under Roxas' term as PSE listing chair that the regulation against price discounts was introduced.

This rule bars, in cases where there is likely to be a significant demand of shares from existing shareholders, the listing of shares subscribed from private placement, debt-to-equity conversion, share-for-share or share-for-property swap or similar transaction unless a rights or public offering for shareholders is first undertaken.

Specifically, it prevents a listed company from offering a discount beyond 10 percent of its average market price or its book value, whichever is higher.

Itogon-Suyoc has offered Philweb a discount of 67 percent below its average 30-day market price of 3 centavos per share.

Itogon-Suyoc's Montilla said his company would be unable to conduct a stock rights offering should it comply with the PSE's price-discount rule.

Kanlaon development pushed

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez said yesterday he would try to convince environmentalist groups to allow PNOC Energy Development Corp.'s exploration within the Mt. Kanlaon National Park in Negros.

In a statement, Perez underscored the importance of hastening the development of the country's geothermal resources. "It is our contribution to reducing the world's greenhouse gases to solve the problem of global warming," he said.

Environmentalists, however, are blocking the government's plan to develop Mt. Kanlaon's geothermal field.

A recently approved law has named Mt. Kanlaon as one of the country's 10 priority areas for conservation. The same law also identified 169 hectares of the area as a "buffer zone" for the development of geothermal energy.

Environmentalists claim geothermal exploration will further erode the country's already dwindling forest cover and have adverse effects on Mt. Kanlaon's biodiversity.

The PNOC-EDC plans to set up well pods in Mt. Kanlaon to prepare for the harnessing of steam to fuel the 40-megawatt Northern Negros Geothermal Plant being developed in nearby Bago City.

SSS sets new tack to solve woes

PRESSED to raise more money to avoid going bankrupt by 2015, the Social Security System said Tuesday it would try to improve collections from its members and work on less politically inflammatory fund-raising measures.

In a news briefing, SSS Chair Vitaliano Nañagas II said the state pension fund was now considering raising the P12,000 monthly salary ceiling it was using as a basis for the contributions and benefits of its 19 million members.

The ceiling ensures that employers and employees will not contribute more than 8.4 percent of P12,000, although the actual monthly salary of the SSS may exceed that amount. Of the 8.4-percent rate, employers pay the SSS 60 percent while employees put up the remaining 40 percent.

Nañagas said based on actuarial estimates, increasing the salary ceiling to P15,000 would lengthen the life of the pension fund by five years.

The SSS chief said the pension fund was also looking into improving its 60-percent collection rate of contributions through tougher legal action against delinquent companies and members.

He noted that many companies deducted SSS contributions from their employees, but were not actually remitting the amount.

Nañagas earlier said the SSS would raise this year the 8.4-percent contributions rate slapped on its members to address a mismatch between the money it was collecting and the benefits it was giving.

Studies have shown that pension funds like the SSS has been extending benefits that its members' contributions have been unable to sustain.

The SSS' earlier plan, however, was abandoned following opposition from lawmakers and groups critical of the pension fund's failed investments under the Estrada administration.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Philex Mining Corp.** were Henry Brimo, Gerard Brimo, Albert Aguirre, Vitaliano Nañagas II, Albert Awad, John Gokongwei Jr., Barbara Anne Migallos, Manuel Zamora Jr. and Horacio Templo.

***

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has lifted the trading suspension on the shares of **C&P Homes Inc.** and gave the company until July 31 to comply with its reportorial requirements.

***

PICOP Resources Inc. has announced the resignation of Ramon Ang as director of the company.

***

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. and **Mapua Institute of Technology Inc.** have signed the deed of sale for the sale and acquisition of the old RCBC head office for P1.1 billion.

***

ELECTED directors of **Kuok Philippine Properties Inc.** were Chye Kuok Khoon Ho, Fernando Gaspar, Edward Kuok Khoon Loong, Thaddeus Beczak, Alfredo Ramos, Johnny Cobankiat, Wilfred Uytengsu Sr., George Go and Antonio Cojuangco.

***

ELECTED directors of **Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.** were Chye Kuok Khoon Ho, Alfredo Ramos, Fernando Gaspar, Edward Kuok Khoon Loong, Chew Fook Aun, Ho Shut Kan, Augusto Sunico, Maximo Licauco III, Cynthia del Castillo, Vicente Formoso and Federico Noel Jr.

***

EXPRESS Holdings Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of **JG Summit Holdings Inc.**, has acquired an additional 2 million shares of **Robinsons Land Corp.** at P2.02 each and 50,000 shares at P2 each.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, July 4, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	71	72.5	71	72.5	105,100
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	35.5	36	35	35	64,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	209	201	204	49,180
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	30	28.5	30	1,100
Security Bank Corp.	20	21	20	21	2,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.37	380,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	249	240	242	780
Manulife Financial Corp.	1445	1460	1445	1455	2,230
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1240	1255	1240	1250	21,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	15,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.5	430,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	695	660	695	7,500
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.038	0.04	0.038	0.039	7,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	65,820,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	4,000
Piltel	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	200,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	330,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	715	715	710	710	42,130
Ivantage Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.85	380,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.039	0.038	0.038	26,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	37.5	37.5	37	37	5,600
Manila Electric Co. B	53.5	54	51.5	51.5	213,000
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.08	2	2.02	5,523,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.48	1.2	1.22	151,996,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.6	2.44	2.46	10,558,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.5	60,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	12,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	16,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.35	4.55	4.35	4.4	1,535,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	92,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26	26.5	26	26.5	4,500
RFM Corp.	1.66	1.76	1.66	1.72	9,796,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	41	40.5	41	10,000
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	46.5	46	46.5	56,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	5.2	4.6	5.2	53,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	110,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.9	0.9	0.84	0.84	580,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	90,000
Ayala Corp.	6.9	7	6.9	6.9	762,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	300,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.16	1.2	569,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	700,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	100
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.82	1.86	1.7	1.72	12,407,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.29	930,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	261,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	222,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	130,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.75	10.75	55,500
Ipeople Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	5,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.12	2.02	2.12	730,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	150,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	7,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	1,100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	390,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	410,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	310,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.24	360,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.82	293,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.88	0.89	0.86	0.89	190,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	5,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	140,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	3,880,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	1,690,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Manila Jockey Club	18	18	18	18	11,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5	5	199,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40	40	40	764,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	495	495	495	495	500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.28	2.28	2	2	517,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	125,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	12,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.028	0.028	0.025	0.028	67,200,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	370	370	370	370	320
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	2,283,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	440,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	4,150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	767,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	10,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.1	1,382,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	3,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.0525	0.0525	0.049	0.049	54,700,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	24,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.023	0.017	0.02	111,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	1,750,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	1,920,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	14,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.017	0.015	0.015	24,100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	631,520	49,904,660.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	509,559,150	444,705,705.00
PRO	10,122,000	23,602,300.00
Mining	198,323,000	6,634,250.00
OIL	52,620,000	748,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	771,255,670	525,595,415.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	571.47	UP 4.51
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,977.48	UP 9.93
PRO	516.62	DOWN 13.22
Mining	1,345.82	DOWN 4.99
OIL	1.44	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	798.43	UP 13.98
Composite	1,385.99	DOWN 6.08

NO. OF ADVANCES: 29; NO. OF DECLINES: 35; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47;
NO OF TRADED ISSUES: 111; NO. OF TRADES: 2,849

CURRENCIES

July 3, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.182872	1.000000	52.6120
Japan	Yen	0.009517	0.008046	0.4233
United Kingdom	Pound	1.673172	1.414500	74.4197
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.151845	0.128370	6.7538
Switzerland	Franc	0.657626	0.555957	29.2500
Canada	Dollar	0.780774	0.660066	34.7274
Singapore	Dollar	0.649288	0.548908	28.8791
Australia	Dollar	0.603506	0.510204	26.8429
Bahrain	Dinar	3.137758	2.652661	139.5618
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.315433	0.266667	14.0299
Brunei	Dollar	0.647085	0.547046	28.7812
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000088	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.026118	0.022080	1.1617
UAE	Dirham	0.322133	0.272331	14.3279
Korea	Won	0.000912	0.000771	0.0406
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.845400	44.4782
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.432246	22.7413
France	Franc	0.152450	0.128880	6.7806
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.383626	20.1833
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.061438	3.2324
Belgium	Franc	0.000517	0.000437	0.0230
Italy	Lire	0.024789	0.020957	1.1026
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.142186	7.4807
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004217	0.2219
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005081	0.2673
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.020957	1.1026
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.073437	56.4757

Changes in rules for pre-need firms OKd

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved Tuesday the proposed amendments to the rules governing the local pre-need industry.

The amendments, proposed by the SEC non-traditional securities and instrument department, will be subjected to a public hearing to be held by the SEC on Aug. 3.

The proposed rules increased to 51 percent from 44 percent the portion of the premium to be set aside for the pre-need companies' trust funds, said Francisco Villaruz, SEC director for non-traditional securities and instrument department.

A trust fund is built up by pre-need companies to cover for actuarial reserve liabilities or the projected amount of benefits it would have to pay in a given year.

Villaruz said the new rules would also allow fully paid plan holders to recover 70 percent of their payments should they decide to terminate their plans before maturity. Under the existing system, plan holders who have paid more than 80 percent of their insurance cost, get only half of the amount in cases of pre-termination.

Villaruz said the change in the provision of termination or refund values was designed to create an incentive for plan holders to fully pay their plans.

Other amendments to the pre-need rules, as approved by the SEC, provide for a new schedule of fines and penalties on pre-need companies that will fail to meet reportorial requirements and disclose pieces of information about the companies in brochures.

The Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc. vehemently opposed the proposed rules, especially those relating to the changes in the termination values and the increase in trust fund contributions.

In a position paper submitted to the SEC, the group warned that the proposed changes would cause the collapse of the pre-need industry which, it said, was a major player in the capital market.

"It also encroaches on the business model and competitiveness of the product. We are sure that it is not the objective of the SEC to kill the industry that has flourished and grown for 35 years under its supervision and care," the federation said.

Specifically, the federation said, the implementation of the proposed changes would affect the pricing model and distribution method of pre-need companies.

"Industry-wide, this will cause an artificial impairment of capital and trust fund deficiency," the federation added.

Philcemcor pushing for higher cement duty

MIDDLEMEN are earning as much as P45 per bag of imported cement and sold locally and local cement companies want the government to get a bite of this bonanza through a provisional tariff increase to shield local producers from unfair competition and further injury.

"Import surge does not benefit the consumer, only the exporters, importers and middlemen. Neighboring countries dump their excess cement here at P92 per bag as against P134 for local cement ex-plant, but these imports are sold to consumers only P2-P5 below local cement prices," the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor) said.

The statement was made by Philcemcor as the Department of Trade and Industry gears up for today's public hearing on the group's proposal to impose punitive duties on cement imports from Taiwan.

The tariff increase sought should not lead to higher prices because it should eat only into the "immoral margins" of importers and middlemen, including certain members of the Philippine Constructors Association (PCA), said Philcemcor, which is seeking the tariff cover under the Safeguard Measures Act.

"A P2 discount per bag for consumers, when traders make P45, is not a good price, at which to kill the industry. It is also not a good price to let thousands of Filipinos go jobless while protecting the jobs of foreign workers," Philcemcor said.

The industry also cited a Center for Research and Communications study indicating that cement accounts for only 5 to 10 percent of construction cost, small compared to the 12 percent for a contractor's fee. Clearly, it said, cement is not a major cost factor to consumers.

Importers started with only a 1.5-percent market share in 1998. They now have 22 percent, which has been growing faster than ever. By the end of this year, Philcemcor expects imports to continue its juggernaut unless the sought safety net is deployed.

In the meantime, local businessmen are taking strong interest in the cement issue, which they perceive as test case for the one-year-old Safeguard Measures Act.

The DTI-Bureau of Import Standards will have to decide within the next three months whether to side with Philcemcor and impose higher tariffs or import quotas on cement to save the local industry.

Any decision will be a difficult one to make considering the implications of the ruling not only on the cement market but also on other distressed industries that might seek government support to block imports.

Philcemcor is pleading its case for punitive duties against Taiwan Cement under the Safeguard Measures Law, aimed at protecting domestic industries from import surges. This law is more lenient than the Anti-Dumping Law because industries do not have to prove that the import surge has actually caused them injury in terms of reduced sales.

Also, both Philcemcor and Taiwan Cement have established solid cases for their causes not to mention that both parties are funded by deep-pocketed financiers. Philcemcor is backed by cement's Big 4—Holderbank of Switzerland, Cemex of Mexico, Lafarge Holdings of France, Blue Circle of the UK—while Taiwan Cement is owned by billionaire Jeffrey Koo.

Philcemcor has accused Taiwan Cement of dumping its excess capacity in the Philippines to kill the local industry citing massive losses, plant closures and layoffs in the last three years to prove its point. The group claimed that Taiwan Cement's main objective in decimating the industry is to sell the additional capacity from its new plant in Taiwan.

Taiwan Cement, however, has justified its shipments by citing the benefits to consumers from heightened competition. This has effectively check local cement maker's flexibility in raising prices up to 200 per bag, which Taiwan cement claimed is the target of the Big 4 in order to recover their huge investments in acquiring more than 80 percent of local capacity. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

DTI junks petrochem group's plea for support

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry (DTI) has rejected a request by the Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines to back up its petition to raise duties on resins that are not produced by local players.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the tariff protection was only used to shield domestic industries and not to correct tariff distortions. Since the resins cited by APMP were not produced locally, it would not be proper to raise duties on these resins since no local industry would be protected and the government could get reprimanded by the World Trade Organization members.

APMP claimed that these resins, which are slapped a 3-percent duty, were being used as substitutes for polyethylene and polypropylene (which are slapped 15-percent duty), the main products of APMP members.

APMP wanted the substitute resins to have a similar duty as the polymers they produce in order to snuff out competition from imports. APMP has cited the infant industry principle in justifying continued protection from imports.

The DTI said that instead of focusing on raising duties to repel import substitutes, the APMP should focus on the Bureau of Customs measures that have been instituted in the past to tighten the monitoring of imported resins in the country.

While the Macapagal administration was cool to the industry's appeal for tariff increases on import substitutes, it was supporting the industry's bid to maintain duties on polymers until the local players have fully integrated their operations with the construction of a naphtha cracker plant.

The DTI had earlier admitted that it would likely sacrifice other industries in order to convince Asean members to approve the Philippines' appeal for a freeze on tariff cuts on petrochemical products.

GOINGS-ON

Francorp's business meets

BUSINESS owners, aspiring franchisees and entrepreneurs will now have the chance to learn and discover opportunities about franchising from the country's professional gurus.

Francorp Philippines, the country's leading franchise specialist, launched a series of "Franchise Your Business" seminars, designed to discover why franchising may be the best way to expand businesses. It will include topics such as the latest franchise industry overview, learning the franchise advantage and the franchise development process.

The franchise seminars will be held every last Friday of the month from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Francorp's new office at Unit 2809 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The first was held on June 29.

SSS' depository bank

THE MONETARY Board has approved the appointment of Equitable PCI Bank as Social Security System's depository bank. SSS, a financial giant with resources of P181.7 billion and 23 million members, requires extensive banking services.

SSS chair and president Vitaliano N. Nanagas II said " We have chosen a financial institution that has both the strong resources and the capability to service our various requirements."

Equitable PCI Bank president Deogracias N. Vistan welcomed this development as a strong testimonial of the bank's quality service and reliability, and its strong relationship with SSS. SSS is a major shareholder of the bank owning a 22-percent stake.

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

AUV MANIA

Buyers choose among Revo, Crosswind and 2002 Adventure

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

WANTED: the best AUV in town. People are talking about the phenomenal rise of Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) in the Philippines. Much of the popularity can be attributed to their prices, which are ranged within the sedans (P600,000 and up) but can seat more people, carry more cargo and ultimately save more on fuel and maintenance. It doesn't take an automotive expert to realize these advantages.

So, which are the most visible AUV manufacturers fighting over at the moment? It may be that buyers' choices may ultimately come down to performance and styling.

Phenomenal rise

The rise of the AUV certainly has not ended. Despite automotive technologists' critique of the primitive and simplistic AUV suspension setup—the rear leaf spring technology dates back to the 1900s—these mechanical "beasts of burden" are selling like hotcakes. Consider, in the commercial vehicle segment, the AUV share has risen to a phenomenal 50 percent. The total industry sales performance sees AUVs eating 30 percent of the pie. AUVs aren't just dwelling on the C market anymore, but have jumped fences and are treading on the A and B segments as well.

The AUV is evolving into a beautiful animal. And the crowd loves it.

Big 3

The AUV industry credits its "big three" manufacturers for such popularity: Isuzu, Mitsubishi and Toyota. Isuzu hasn't just rested on its laurel of being the king of diesel engines. It has even produced the esthetically pleasing Crosswind, an automatic transmission workhorse with turbo diesel engine. An automotive technology expert recommends this for buyers who prefer diesel AUVs. The youngest of the three, six-year-old Isuzu Motor Philippines has 17 dealerships/service centers, five of which are in Metro Manila. An additional three are under construction in Pangasinan, Commonwealth in Quezon City and in Pasig. The Crosswind has four variants, and available engine displacements are 2.5 and a 2.5 turbo. The entry level Isuzu Crosswind is XL manual at P635,000. Its top-of-the-line is an XTO A/T at P778,000.

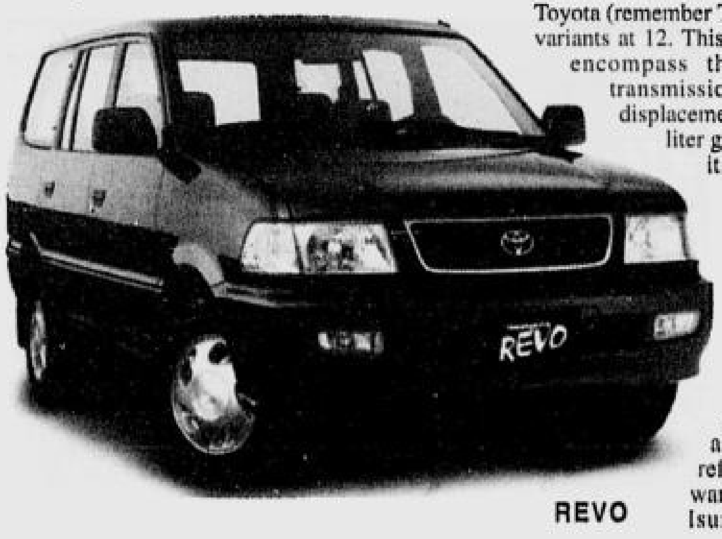
ADVENTURE

Despite the subtle print and TV launch, consumers couldn't help but react to the "SUV look" of the 2002 Mitsubishi Adventure. Observers say its elegant outer designs, if refined a bit further, could even outdo the CR-V's looks—for a few hundreds of thousands of pesos less. Others say the souped-up Adventure looks like an oversized Toyota Verso, while others insist it looks like a Pajero. Is this a compliment or what? We're only talking of an AUV here.

Another thing going for Mitsubishi is the promise of after-sales service. Mitsubishi has the most number of dealerships/service centers nationwide—39 of them.

CROSSWIND

The lowest priced Adventure is pegged at P600,000, which is the GL diesel manual 2.5L. Its priciest is the Adventure Sport gas with automatic transmission at P785,000. From January to May, Mitsubishi sold 3,050 units and it claimed to bag 34.9 percent of the total AUV market.


REVO

Meanwhile, the Revo of the so-called AUV pioneer Toyota (remember Tamaraw FX?) has the most AUV variants at 12. This would cover all class segments, encompass the two fuel categories and transmissions, and offer existing engine displacements—from 1.8-liter gasoline to 2-liter gasoline and 2.4-liter diesel. Name it, Toyota has it. Toyota has 23 dealerships/service centers nationwide, 13 in Metro Manila. Its entry level AUV is priced at P578,000 and the top-of-the-line costs P818,000. From January to May, the Toyota Revo sold 3,912 units.

We've asked around for advice on which AUV would stand out among the rest. Here's one from an automotive technologist who refused to be named: "If the buyer wants the strength of diesel, try the Isuzu Crosswind 2.5-liter diesel automatic transmission turbo. Its bonus includes a touch of aerodynamic lines. If one wants the efficiency of gasoline and after-sales 'pampering,' try the Revo. If the appearance is your priority, then the SUV wannabe 2002 Adventure is for you."

What they say

Vehicle enthusiast Raul Ylanan added his insights. He said the most positive development of the increased competition in the AUV segment is that each new model is better engineered, better designed and, hopefully, safer to drive and more fuel-efficient.

Of the top three AUVs, Ylanan personally prefers the styling of the Isuzu Crosswind.

"The Isuzu's diesel engines are probably the most reliable and include many advanced features," he said.

The Adventure, for Ylanan, has been the least esthetically pleasing of the three. The 2002 model, he said, may be an improvement, though he has yet to see one up close.

Alex Ginhawa, a businessman in Naga City and married with five kids, travels over three hours every day through the Naga-Sorsogon-Legazpi areas. He owns a two-year-old Highlander SL diesel, an 18-month-old Mitsubishi Adventure Sports, a one-week-old Revo, an Strada pickup and an Isuzu Trooper. Among the three, he picked the Revo GL diesel as the best. He sold his RAV 4 recently to buy his Revo.

"I find it (Revo) spacious and more fuel-efficient. Although the Adventure is powerful with its 2.5-liter engine plus its smaller body. I like the spaciousness and rear passenger seating (comfort) of the Revo better. The Highlander, after a while, becomes noisy," said Ginhawa.

An automotive technology writer said his personal favorite was the Mitsubishi Adventure Sport 2.0 Automatic. He said that the Adventure's Pajero-looking unit is a benchmark.

"It may not be the most technologically savvy of the AUVs, but it is a looker and performs good enough. Those who have owned or driven automatics from the '80s will not find the feel of the Adventure SS alien. It has a characteristic slowness and the engine is not perky," he explained.

He also said that of the diesels, he liked the Isuzu Xtreme. It may be rough and tough and quite noisy, but he said it feels "on the spot" and easy to drive and cheapest to maintain.

So, which dashing AUV would you bet your money on? There may be no losers in this gamble, folks.

Blurring the line between AUV, SUV

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

ONLY the letters "u" and "v" in the acronyms AUV and SUV are common. Mechanically, these vehicle types are as different as black and white. While the Asean utility vehicles use rehashed engineering to keep the costs down, sport utility vehicles use the latest improvements in drivetrain and engine technology to enhance on- and off-road performance.

AUVs (also referred to as all-purpose utility vehicles) are built primarily to provide affordable transportation exclusively for the Southeast Asian market. Aimed at the middle-class, it was made to replace the station wagon and pickup, in clannish markets like Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

The SUV on the other hand is designed for dual-surface duty. Beginning as a sportier modification of the venerable 4x4, it developed into a separate niche, beginning with the funky Toyota RAV-4 introduced five years ago. The SUV concept revolves around a "look cool," "be different" and "get you there" premise.

In short, the SUV is aspirational. The AUV is practical.

AUV manufacturers are taking advantage of this thinking. AUV styling has evolved from a bolt-together-old parts affair to a serious science of imitation. Makers like Isuzu even claim their vehicles are more like SUV than AUV.

Pseudo-SUVs are utility vehicles made to look like their more glamorous kin. And with each model change, the distinction, style wise at least, between AUV and SUV, is hazier.

Confidential, commissioned market studies reveal the typical Filipino AUV buyer sees engineering parity in the available AUV lineup. "Engine displacement and available transmission types are not customer issues," one study discovered. "A significant (percentage of) buyers do not include technical details in their purchase decision," another study revealed. "Little knowledge about important technical details," is another observation about the market.

For AUVs, looks sell more than technology. Utility will always be there.

Therefore technology does little to sell an AUV. Isuzu's direct-injection diesel engine was the most advanced diesel burner when it was introduced roughly three years ago. This excellently produced gobs of torque even at low engine speeds. It also emitted fewer pollutants than other diesels. Plus it had the Isuzu badge of indestructibility. Yet it failed to sway the market into buying factory loads of Highlanders.

Naturally, price, value-for-money (perceived as the number of features included in the suggested retail price) and brand loyalty play important roles in closing a sale. But a new buying pattern is emerging.

Filipino AUV buyers want looks to complement price and performance. "*Pa-porma muna,*" since the AUV is seen as the middle-class version of the SUV. It must ape the SUV at least externally.

Take the Toyota Revo, for instance. Starting off as the ubiquitous, shuttle-service friendly Tamaraw, it has successfully shed off its boxy and utilitarian image. No more is it heir apparent to the jeepney.

Sharing its lines and curves with the sportier Prado, the Revo kept Toyota in fighting form against the Adventure and Highlander. The newest Revos sport fancier grilles (Sport Runner, for instance) and fatter, larger tires. There are several variants, including the first automatic transmission mated to a gurgly 1.8-liter gasoline engine.

A virtually unbreakable diesel engine matched with a highly refined suspension and an easy-to-like price tag endeared the Highlander to many.

Its replacement, the Crosswind, deviates from the Highlander's right angles and squared-off design convention. Visually, the Crosswind is sanded down and curvy, borrowing some elements (the grille and front bumper) from the Isuzu Rodeo. But it shares its figure and essential lines with the sleek Axiom, an SUV Isuzu was rumored to have planned to bring in, but wasn't able to.

Mitsubishi's new Adventure further blurs the styling distinctions between SUVs and AUVs. External changes in the new Adventure include a bolder chrome grille and better-looking five-spoke rims plus improved interior with fold-and- tumble rear seats.

But what really grabs you about the new Adventure are the high-mount taillights. This "rear combination lamp cluster" is a feature not found even in its current local SUV lineup. Though the basic shape remains, the embellishments set it apart visually from the other two utility vehicles. Closer, too close in fact, to both the highly favored Pajero and the much loved CR-V.

Positioning these vehicles, even implicitly as SUVs will surely charm the market.

What happens to the bottom line is a different story. While SUV makers pay slash margins for 2.0-liter engines and fancy engineering, AUV manufacturers can still claim preferential excise tax, translating to better profit margins.

In the next two years, when the AUV makers are scheduled for a full model revamp of their existing lineup, expect the distinctions disappear in a cloudy haze. Already, rumors are circulating about a 4-wheel drive AUV, motivated by a pickup derived engine-and-drivetrain platform. They may have to redefine the acronym to All-Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle.

Kudos to Abenina, Mitsubishi and Mar Roxas

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

I DIDN'T know that fake insurance firms in our midst are raking in millions at the expense of our government. I came to know about this through Edgardo Abenina, the new chief of the Land Transportation Office.

According to Abenina, who, I heard, has been doing his job in a no-nonsense manner, the government is losing more than P1 billion in taxes every year due to the existence of fly-by-night insurance firms victimizing innocent motorists.

Their modus operandi is simple: They issue you fake insurance papers once you register your car. Under the law, private and public vehicle owners must seek a third-party liability insurance before they can register their vehicles or renew the registration of their vehicles. A third-party liability entitles victims of vehicular accidents automatic money compensation for hospitalization, or even death.

Employees of these fake insurance firms are crawling at the vicinity of every LTO office; they succeed in their illicit operations because of their connections with LTO personnel.

* * *

To rob government of revenues, the insurance firm sells its coverages 10 times or more using only one policy.

Abenina has remedied the situation by accepting only insurance firms with good standing. He said every policy sale will have to be reported directly to him or to his duly authorized men.

The positive step taken by Abenina to ensure the implementation of the program was to sign a memorandum of agreement with Pedro Benedicto, president of the Insurance Surety Association of the Philippines.

"Those who are not affiliated with us are those who have problems," said Benedicto. "If they are not Isap members, there must be something fishy about their operations."

Abenina said the new pact would assure the government of more revenues while it would likewise protect policyholders of full and correct coverage in case of accidents.

* * *

Abenina has done many other positive things during his only three months or so tenure at the LTO. The allegations of arrogance about his style of leadership are to me without basis. The point is, is he delivering? Is he performing?

Already, Abenina has arrested and filed charges against several LTO "undesirables," eliminated fake driver's licenses provided by corrupt LTO personnel and zeroed in on provincial colorum buses which usually are involved in accidents due to their road unworthiness.

But the one thing I like most about Abenina is his strict adherence to the new LTO policy of processing licenses and vehicle registrations in one hour or less. This is a "*pogi* point" that the public appreciates very much.

Now, as to the charge that Abenina has issued threats of withdrawing RAM and its allied organizations from the peace accord with the government should he be dismissed from the LTO, I find that absurd. At most, that is the handiwork of people who are either envious of Abenina's management style and covet his position or belong to a group out to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

Abenina is obviously brimming with success that those being trampled upon along the way (mostly the corrupt ones or the incorrigibles) are desperately looking for ways to unseat him so that they can resume their evil ways.

My advice to Abenina: Don't mind them. Your performance is your best defense.

* * *

Nobody won the Mitsubishi Lancer staked as a hole-in-one prize during the Philippine Open last week at Wack Wack won by Cassius Casas. There were 161 of them, 77 were foreigners from 17 countries, who tried.

But be that as it may, may I again congratulate Mitsubishi Motors Philippines for having graciously sponsored the Lancer, not to mention the almost P1 million the company donated as prizes in the fabled event.

To Terry Shibata, Mel Dizon, Froy Dytianquin, Thelma Lozano and Ding Benitez, a glass to your untiring efforts in making Mitsubishi a perennial partner of the National Golf Association of the Philippines in putting up the Philippine Open year in and year out. The Open is a national patrimony, a treasure in the nation's cache of sporting events.

See you again next year, Mel.

* * *

My congratulations, too, to Secretary Mar Roxas of the Department of Trade and Industry for disallowing the importation of semiknocked down (SKD) vehicles at preferential tariffs.

The move is a major relief to local assemblers and manufacturers, who have been doing their best to develop the Philippine automotive industry.

Usually, SKD units are brought to the country without tires and batteries. They have the benefit of the same preferential tariff of around 3 percent to 10 percent of completely knocked-down (CKD) units.

CKDs are slapped preferential tariffs since they are assembled locally, thus providing more work for the unemployed and added business for local parts suppliers.

Among the vehicle companies that praised Roxas' policy was Isuzu Philippines Corp.

"We are extremely grateful that the BOI, under the leadership of DTI Secretary Manuel Roxas II, has decided to put more focus on the promotion of Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV) as the country's premier export material," said Isuzu. "The disapproval of SKD importation will certainly be a step closer for the government in achieving the goal for its Motor Vehicle Development Program."

The MVDP, in existence since 1972, is aimed at increasing exports of automotive parts and components. It is a surefire formula to generate employment while encouraging participation of the country's small and medium enterprises to spur more operations.

* * *

It's been two weeks since they started repairing the three holes at East Avenue and one hole at Elliptical Road in Quezon City.

They seem to work at a snail's pace. But at least, they're doing something. Good enough.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Buy a newspaper in the morning. Handy as a car floormat when you enter your car dripping wet from the rains. Protects your rug from mud, too.

Nissan Verita: Mod-hip

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY VERNON B. SARNE

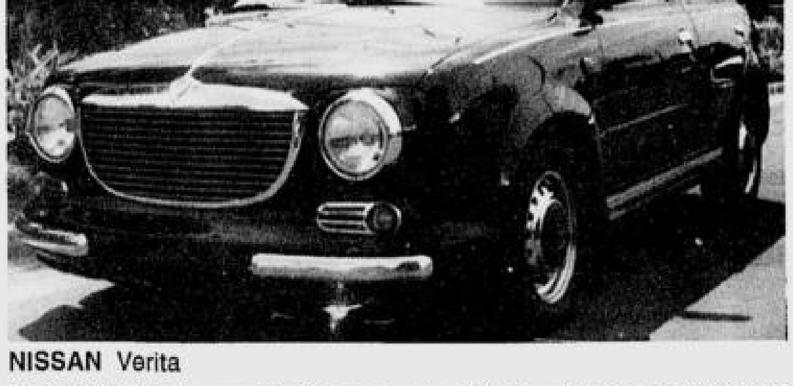
EXCUSE us for the many mod references in this test-drive review, but this piece of automotive nostalgia is asking for it. The Nissan Verita, an inch-for-inch tribute to the classic BMC Mini, will not fail to transport you to the time when London was swinging and moptops were hip. In this retrostyled hatchback, every street will look like Penny Lane. No kidding.

It is a great time to be driving the Verita, because over in the UK, the Brits are celebrating the much-hyped arrival of the new Mini this month, featuring a modern rendition of its ancestor's styling cues. The Verita, however, is a pleasing throwback to the original which first made motoring cool in 1959. If you're a purist, you will probably sneer at Nissan for plagiarizing Alec Issigonis' lines, bulges and fenders. But if you're like us—mere mortals who appreciate nice car styling when we see one—you will leisurely cruise to wherever while onlookers peer through the clear windows to let the Verita's driver know about their good-natured envy.

Why copy the legendary Mini? Why not? The Mini, in case you didn't hear, was named Car of the Century last year by discerning automotive scribes and experts. It's like taking everything that's good about the history of the automobile and trusting the Mini to ably represent them. Indeed, there's a lot to be said about driving a car with a styling that actually launched a culture. We don't see anything wrong in Nissan paying homage.

The Verita is actually based on the March/Micra platform. Responsible for the classic styling is Yulon Motor Co. of Taiwan. The car is being sold only in Taiwan and the Philippines. Not even the Japanese have them, so consider yourself one lucky bloke. The Taiwanese also drive on the left-hand side, allowing Nissan Motor Phils. to import the Verita completely built-up.

As mentioned, the Verita flaunts downright Mini styling. The chief difference is that it has five doors to the Mini's three. Subtle changes were also made on the grille (almost just an inverted edition of the original's); hood (flat sans the headlight flares); and taillights (in this case two separate small ones on either side). The chrome strip that runs across the middle of the hood was derived straight from the Mini Cooper.


NISSAN Verita

Now let's forget about the Mini references for a while. A comparison with the Verita's main rival on the market today—the Toyota Echo—is in order. The Verita is nearly the same size as the Echo. The Verita, however, is about 12 centimeters longer by virtue of lengthier front and rear overhangs. The Echo, on the other hand, is 8 centimeters wider and 7 centimeters taller.

You must be thinking that riding in the Verita calls for some belt-tightening and back-slouching. We thought that, too, until a friend who stands 6 feet and weighs 260 pounds, effortlessly squeezed himself right into the passenger seat—and never complained about any lack in roominess throughout a half-hour drive. Also, cargo space at the back is surprisingly accommodating.

The Verita, like the Echo, is powered by a 1.3-liter 16-valve DOHC EFI in-line-4 engine. The variable valve timing of the Echo's engine, however, does wonders in helping the Toyota top the Nissan in both horsepower (85 hp versus 75 hp) and torque (12.4 kg-m versus 10.5 kg-m) departments. And the Verita only comes with a 4-speed automatic shifter.

The power difference is even more evident on the road, where the Echo is always willing to sprint while the Verita is more at home with unhurried cruises. No big deal, really. The Echo should in fact be the sprinter. It is, in the first place, the one that wears sporty styling. And this is not to say the Verita is a sluggard. In the tradition of bantam-car motoring, the Verita is also capable of providing spirited joyrides. Just don't expect to run away with a drag race or slalom trophy with it.

The engine is complemented by a two-stage catalytic converter located in the exhaust manifold and the muffler.

Inside, the Verita is even more redolent of the '60s spirit: woodgrain touches all over; leather seats and door trim; Mini-inspired three-metal-spoke steering wheel and instrument cluster; chrome-plated aircon vents and controls; and, believe it or not, a classic-styled clock on the center dashboard. The interior's only concessions to the modern era are the automatic transmission and the Panasonic audio system with a 12-disc CD changer tucked beneath the passenger seat.

There is just a couple of requests we'd like to ask future Verita owners. Do not tint the windows and do not stick boy-band music into the CD changer. These would be utter desecration of the car. If you haven't already done so, discover Burt Bacharach or The Who—but please no N'Stink.

The Verita comes in dark green and dark red colors—both dust magnets, especially during the rainy season.

The Verita sells for P685,000. That's P26,000 more than the automatic Echo, but a reasonable price to pay to relive long lost times. And that's almost a million bucks cheaper than what Volkswagen will ask from you to summon back your Beetle-riding days.

Safety at intersections

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

HOW often have you seen a car running a red light at an intersection? If you drive in Metro Manila, you see motorists disregarding a red light every day, with jeepney drivers as the leading culprits.

Red-light running and other traffic signal violations, such as ignoring yield and stop signs, appear to be the most frequent cause of traffic crashes in urban areas. In the United States, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) says red-light running accounts for more than 200,000 injuries and more than 800 deaths per year. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that about 23 percent of all fatal crashes in America occurred at or near intersections in 1999.

According to the web page of State Farm Insurance, America's biggest auto insurer, the rear-end collision seems to be the most common type of crash at intersections since vehicles are often required to stop at intersections. A key factor in rear-end collisions is tailgating, or following too closely. Side-impact or angle collisions also occur frequently at intersections, such as when a driver attempts a left turn in the face of oncoming traffic, or tries to make a right turn on a red light when the way isn't clear, or speeds up to "beat" a red light and hits another car whose driver anticipated a green light.

Driver inattentiveness has caused an increasing number of intersection accidents, such as when a driver doesn't pay enough attention to traffic because he/she is talking on a cell phone, eating or smoking while driving, or tuning a radio or changing a CD or cassette tape. Occasionally, the driver blames the crash on brakes that failed, skidding on the wet pavement or being blinded by the sun.

Sometimes, the intersection itself could be to blame. Faulty signal timing, line-of-sight problems, the absence or lack of left-turn lanes, a slippery pavement or inadequate lighting at night may be contributing to crashes and improvements have to be made to render the intersection less hazardous and more driver-friendly. The upgrading of six intersections in Vancouver, Canada, for example, reduced rear-end collisions by up to 40 percent.

Naturally, auto insurance companies have a stake in safety at intersections since less traffic accidents mean less claims they have to pay. State Farm took the initiative in this regard by launching a project in June 1999 to make intersections in North America safer and thus reduce the number of crashes, deaths and injuries occurring there. The firm began by announcing the 10 most dangerous intersections in the US, based on its 1998 claim data and the percentage of vehicles insured in areas in which these intersections are located. State Farm offered up to $100,000 for improvements at each of these 10 intersections and pledged up to $20,000 for professional engineering studies of each intersection that made a "most dangerous" list in an individual state or province. By June 2001, studies were ongoing or had been completed at about 100 of the 172 intersections on State Farm's 1999 state and provincial lists. The company has also released new lists of most dangerous intersections based on its 1999 and 2000 claim data.

Unfortunately, a project like this is not feasible at this time in the Philippines, given its high cost (State Farm is providing more than $5 million for intersection studies and upgrading this year), the lack of data on intersection mishaps and the fact that many—if not most—motor vehicles in this country are not adequately covered by comprehensive insurance. This is because the law requires only TPL (third party liability) insurance for a motor vehicle to be registered.

But drivers can do their part to help reduce intersection crashes by not running a red light or speeding through intersections; not tailgating other vehicles; signaling turns and lane changes (never change lanes in an intersection and make sure you are in the correct lane well before you must turn); not trying to "beat" signal changes; watching out for drivers trying to beat the signal change as well as for pedestrians, cyclists, motorcycles hidden by blind spots, emergency vehicles and funeral processions; not blocking an intersection by entering it when traffic is backed up on the other side; slowing down in bad weather so you'll have more time to stop if necessary, especially on a slippery pavement; and, while waiting to turn, keeping your wheels straight to avoid being pushed into another lane in case you are rear-ended.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Your village called...The idiot is missing.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph.

TMA lauds Roxas

THE TRUCK Manufacturers Association, through its president Frank M. Nacua, publicly expressed its deep appreciation to Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas for having put into focus the Asian utility vehicles (AUV) and identified this type of vehicle as an export niche.

The TMA, which was founded in 1979, is an aggrupation of 12 major commercial vehicle assemblers and manufacturers all registered with the Bureau of Investments' Motor Vehicle Development Program. Toyota, Mitsubishi and Isuzu, the top three producers of AUVs in the country, are all members of this association. Other TMA members who are at present contributing to the burgeoning AUV market but yet in smaller volumes are Francisco Motors, Suzuki and Nissan. The TMA also counts from among its memberships such known brands as Hino, Ford, Kia, Nissan Diesel, Mercedes-Benz, MAN, Daewoo and SSyangyong.

Nacua, who is on his third term as president lauded Roxas on the promotion of AUVs not only for its strong domestic performance but as the kind of vehicle envisioned to have a much greater potential for export to other underdeveloped countries whose per capita income and road terrains are somewhat similar to the Philippines.

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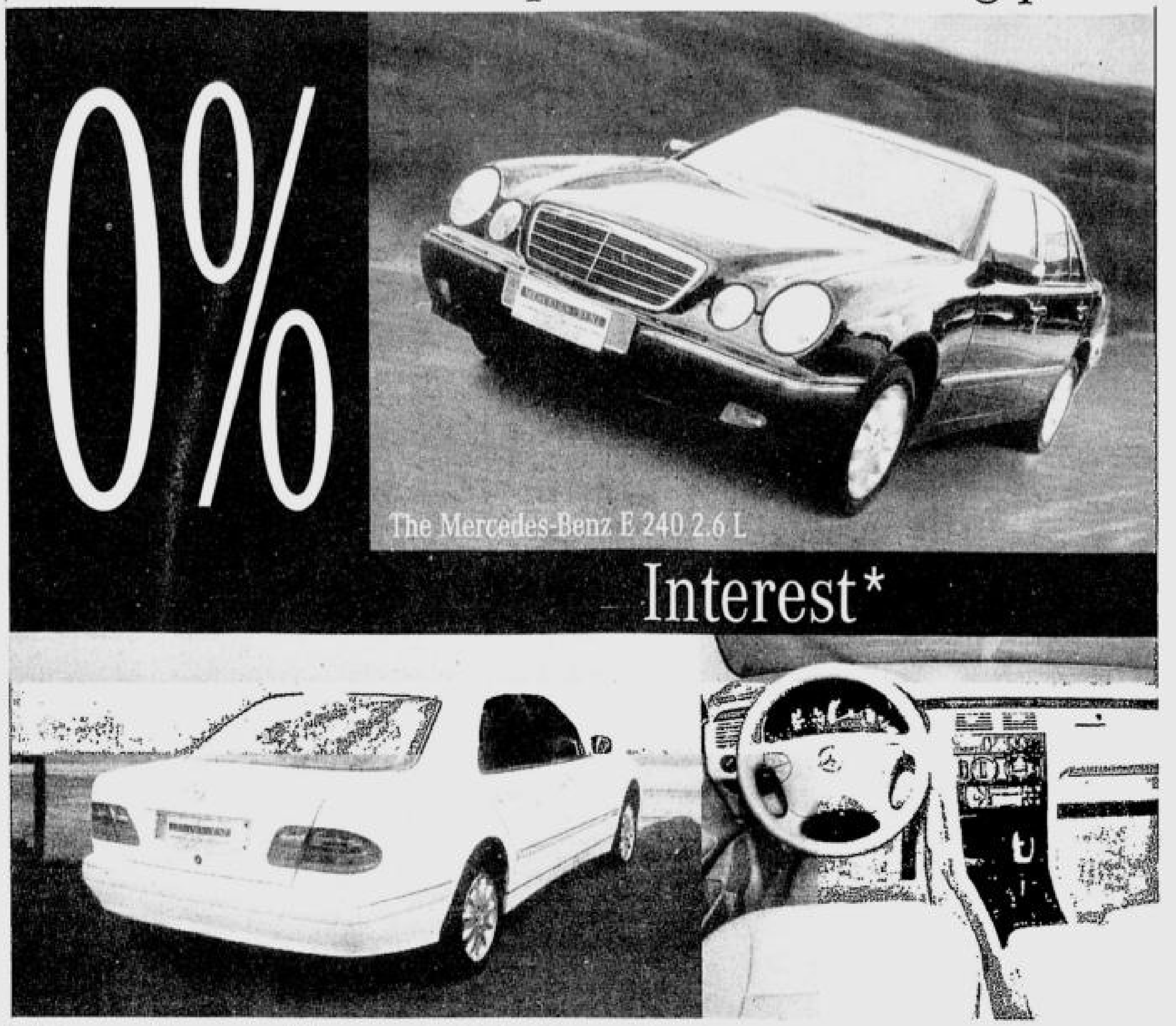

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Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ENRIQUETA BARCELON-LIM was extra-judicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 228, Page No. 47, Book NO. XXI, Series of 2000, before Notary Public Manuel Sabado of Makati City.
(PDI-July 5, 12, 19, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate & deposit accounts of the late MARIANO E. VILLALOBOS were extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 62, Page No. 14, Book No. 17, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Sabino G. Ramos, Las Pinas City (PDI-June 28,July 5&12.2001)

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The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all local manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE-FOURTH (1/4) TON LIGHT UTILITY VEHICLES** with an approved budget of **One Hundred Ninety Three Million Five Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Pesos (P193,536,000.00)** under the **AFP Modernization Program**.

Only bids from local suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said 1/4 Ton Light Utility Vehicles shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **06 July 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP; 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **July 19, 2001** at **10:00 AM** (local time) at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on **August 10, 2001** at **9:00 AM** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **1:00 PM** at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **LTGEN ROY A CIMATU AFP**
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- July 5 & 6, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of Stock Certificate #1823 issued by Capitol Hills Golf & Country Club, Inc. to Ms. Chuang Myiing Hwa. If no contest is presented, new certificate will be issued.
Call 818-4234
(PDI-July 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE
O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful inter-cessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted. **MTO**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. **MTO**

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT FOR ANSWERING MY PRAYER. *HAP*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the supply, installation and delivery of the following IT resources:

I. **Supply and Installation of Fiber Optic Backbone for DOLE Bldg.**
II. **One (1) unit - Contivity VPN Gateway with 100 Tunnels Available**
III. **Eleven (11) units - Baystack 350 Switch with 24 10/100 Ports and 1 GB Port Available**
IV. **One (1) lot - Optera/Passport 8006 Layer 3 Switch with Dual CPU, Dual Power Supply, 48 10/100 Ports and 8 GB Ports Available**
V. **One (1) unit - Network Associate E-ppliance Gauntlet Firewall (Perpetual License) 1-100 Nodes**
VI. **Five (5) units - 3COM 3C16464A SSII Baseline 10/100 Switch 12-Port Unmanaged Switch**
VII. **Ten (10) units - 3COM 3C16951 SSII Switch 1100 12-port (12 x 10 BaseT) Managed Switch**
VIII. **Three (3) units - Baystack Access Remote Node Router with 16 MB DRAM; 8 MB PCMCIA Access Suite, Dual Ethernet Module and 3 Serial Ports Available**

Interested bidders may secure application for eligibility forms with the checklist of eligibility documents from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila. Application for eligibility together with the eligibility documents shall be received by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Eligibility Screening Secretariat, Cash Division (CD) at the above-mentioned address until **July 18, 2001**. Only eligible bidders shall be invited to attend the pre-bid conference on **July 25, 2001** at **10:00 a.m.** at the Administrative Service Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila. Attendance during the pre-bid conference is a must and an absent bidder shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate in the bidding.

The approved budget for the projects to be bid is **EIGHT MILLION SIX HUNDRED FORTY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY PESOS (Php 8,649,620.00)**

The **PUBLIC BIDDING** is on **Aug. 1, 2001** at the same scheduled time and venue.

Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals on the date of the bidding. The Department of Labor and Employment reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please call telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3583.

(Sgd.) **BENEDICTO ERNESTO R. BITONIO JR.**
Assistant Secretary

(PDI -- July 4 & 5, 2001)

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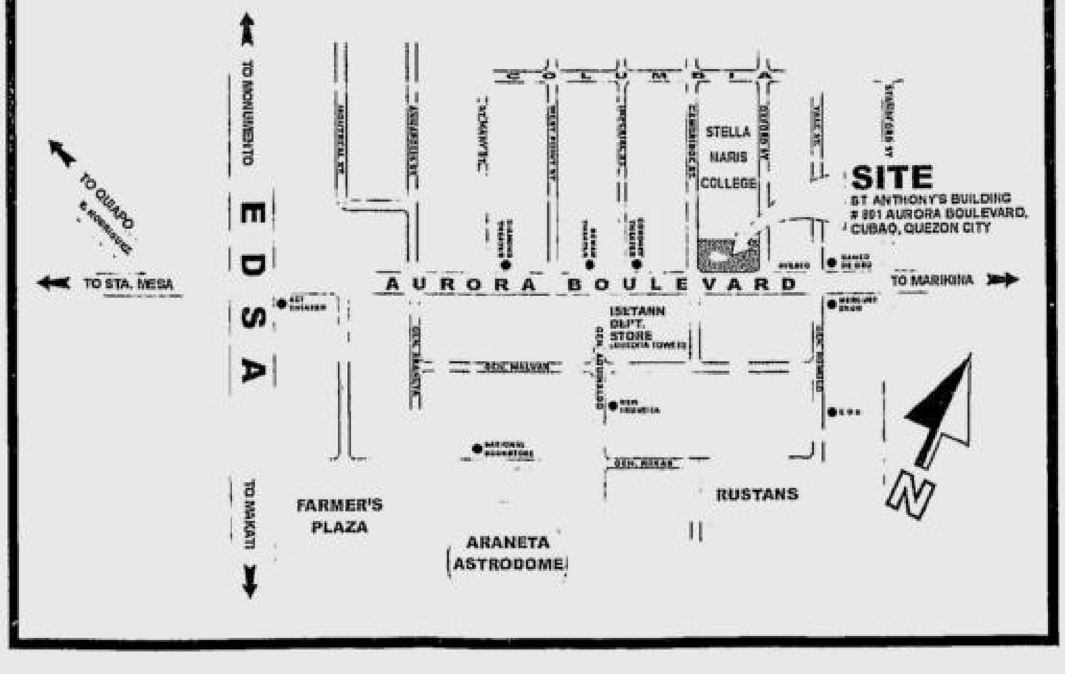

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AUGUSTO C. SANTOS, SR.

Of San Mateo, Rizal

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on July 3, 2001 at the age of 72.

His dearest wife **MILING**; children **AMANG** (†), **EDDIE**, **JUN**, **EMAN** and **MONET** and spouses; grandchildren **ALEX**, **SONNY**, **JON-JON**, **TAN-TAN**, **FOURTH**, **MICAH**, **BITOY** and **BUNSO**; other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remins lie in state at the family residence, #333 Gen. Luna, San Mateo, Rizal.

Atty. MARTIN A. GALIT

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 1, 2001
at the age of 88.

His wife **Muy**; children **Julita**, **Rosalie**, **Minda**, **Gloria**, **Martin Jr.**, **Elsie**, **Lilia**, and **Chona**; sons and daughter-in-law, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be announced later.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

Emerita Martinez-Estrada

widow of the late *Lori de Guzman-Estrada*
June 26, 1928 — July 10, 2000

Masses offered on July 10, 2001:
Miraculous Medal Church, *Project 4, Quezon City*
Mary Mediatrix Medical Center Chapel (July 7, 2001)
and **Mt. Carmel**, *Lipa City, Batangas*
Holy Family Church, *Roxas District, Quezon City*

The family request the pious readers
to remember *Berit* in their prayers.
Kindly call 9118618 for Mass schedule.

Our Dearly Beloved

Rolando R. Andaya

of Ragay, Camarines Sur

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 3, 2001
at the age of 63.

His beloved children **Rolando, Jr.** and **Marissa**, **Maribel** and **Bobby**; grandchildren **Ranton** and **Katrina**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City on July 4, 5 and 6, 2001 in Ragay, Camarines Sur on July 7, 8 and 9, 2001. Interment will be on the 10th of July 2001.

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INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as MEDIUM A in Electrical Works or General Building - Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project.

SAMAR Rural Electrification Project
Stage 2, Schedule 2 (20 Barangays)
under Bid/Project No. EDC 01-098

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to the 20 Barangays situated in the Towns of CATARMAN and BOBON, NORTHERN SAMAR and SALCEDO and GUIUAN, EASTERN SAMAR.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Ignacius M. Corcuera) starting **JULY 2, 2001, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than **5:00 p.m. of JULY 16, 2001**.

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **AUGUST 15, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **AUGUST 29, 2001, 8:30 a.m.** at the (to be advised later). Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than **2:00 p.m.** of **SEPTEMBER 18, 2001** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI – July 5 & 6, 2001)

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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

SECOND (2nd) INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY OF THE FOLLOWING:

a. Contract Package No. 13 : Four (4)-Drawer Lateral Files (Stand Alone) with Overhead File Cabinet, Four (4)-Drawer Lateral Files (Stand Alone) without Overhead Cabinet, Lateral Files (On Tracks with Fixed File Cabinet) and Open File Shelves;
b. Contract Package No. 13A : File Compactors; and
c. Contract Package No. 13B : File Cabinet for Maps and Index Cards

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply, delivery and assembly of lateral files and compactors for office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification, and bidding for Contract Package Nos 13, 13A and 13B for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule:

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-Qualification Conference	Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification after	Dates of Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
July 5 to 10, 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 13, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	a. Evaluation of Pre-qualification Documents and Brochures	August 1, 2001	August 28, 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	August 31, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	Sept. 7, 2001 @ 10:00 AM
		b. Evaluation of Displays versus Brochures	August 17, 2001			
		c. Selection of top choices from the displays by Sub-Committee and Special Committee	August 27, 2001			

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the LBP Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00 for the new suppliers (those who did not secure the pre-qualification documents during the first invitation), and P700.00 for those who have secured/submitted pre-qualification documents during the first invitation. Only those suppliers who secured the pre-qualification documents shall be eligible to participate in the pre-qualification process.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given two (2) calendar-days to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than July 20, 2001, 3:00 PM, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" and "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on September 7, 2001 (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ**
Chairman,
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Building Project

(PDI – July 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Stretching the value of the peso

TIME and again, Filipinos have shown the unique ability to stretch the value of the peso—especially during hard economic times. Bargain hunting is the name of the game. And this is one game that Filipino consumers have learned to play so well. In fact, given the present value of the peso, shoppers are bound to look for products that not only give them better value for money but more savings as well.

One such product is the Rexona Sport Stick in Deodorant Stick Refills, which give consumers huge savings. Rexona Extra Dry Stick in Deodorant Stick Refills contain deosteral max—an active ingredient that prevents malodor, stops germs and keeps the user dry all day long.

The Deodorant Stick Refills are available in 25-gram packs, which can also fit into Rexona's 50-gram packs. When you buy a 50-gram Rexona Sport Stick, it readily comes with a 25-gram Deodorant Stick Refill—all for a limited offer only. Affordably priced at P34.95, the 25-gram Deodorant Stick Refills can now be found at leading groceries and supermarkets nationwide.

The Rexona Extra Dry in Deodorant Stick Refills is the first of its kind in the Philippines and in the world. Unilever first introduced the Deodorant Stick Refills locally due to Filipinos' penchant for savings.

These revolutionary refills, comparatively priced like roll-ons, are also easy to install. There is a special introductory promo pack, which contains an empty Rexona Extra Dry pack, a refill and a how-to-install leaflet to get the consumer started. The patented refills work only on Rexona packages.

By stretching the value of the peso, Filipinos can now buy basic necessities and even avail of consumer products that maximize your money's worth. One just needs to look around for ways to stretch the value of the peso and enjoy purchasing power to the fullest.

PLDT
OF CONVERGENCE
MEGALINK

PLDT, MEGALINK MOU

ePLDT and Megalink recently signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on possible synergies for the PLDT Visa Cash Card. Shown in photo were (from left) PLDT consumer product assistant vice president Jonel M. Ladaban; ePLDT managing directors Ariel A. Roda and Ray C. Espinosa; Megalink president Antonio L. Go; Megalink chair Jeronimo U. Kilayko and Megalink general manager Criselda B. Santillan.

FLU AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Actress Rina Reyes gets a flu vaccine shot from Dr. Joselito Sta. Ana, sales and marketing manager of Aventis Pasteur for her support for Flu Awareness Campaign. Baby O'Brien waits for her turn. The Flu Awareness Campaign was launched recently at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The event was attended by notable personalities from the medical, media and private sectors. Celebrities also graced occasion.

Go loco over Jollibee's Buko Piña Pie

THE MONTH of July ushers in a new delectable delight for dessert and snack lovers as fast-food leader in Jollibee introduces its new treat—the "Buko-Piña Pie." This new product enables customers to enjoy a unique combination of juicy coconut strip and sweet pineapple bits stuffed in a crispy pie crust.

According to Jollibee product manager Lot Legaspi, "Filipinos like to order our pie products as an in-between snack or dessert to complement their hamburgers, chicken or spaghetti. That's why we came up with the Jollibee "Buko-Piña Pie" for our customers to enjoy a different Filipino treat that offers good value for their money."

Customers may avail of the Jollibee "Buko-Piña Pie" for P14 as a solo item or as a part of any Jollibee value meal for an additional P10 at Jollibee stores nationwide.

TOTALLY GLOBE BAZAAR

Who would have thought that Greenbelt is now also the newest, hottest and most complete haven of cellular phones. The cellular reinvention of Greenbelt happened when Globe Telecom recently opened the Greenbelt Telecom Center as the newest major attraction and permanent fixture of the Greenbelt Mall. Launching the telecom center simultaneous to its ribbon-cutting ceremonies was a big open-air party held at the mall's Paseo de Roxas parking area, where the most happening bands Next Level, Passage and Silk performed to a jampacked and excitable Friday night crowd. The Greenbelt Telecom Center is found at the second floor Cinema Level of the Greenbelt Mall. The Greenbelt Telecom Center prides itself as the country's only and first-ever telecom bazaar that is 100 percent Globe-exclusive.

PLANTERS DEVELOPMENT BANK AGREEMENT

Planters Development Bank Insurance Agency Inc. (PDBIA), recently signed a service agreement with Asian Business Solutions Inc. (Absi) for the implementation of Absi's Integrated Insurance Brokerage System (IIBS). Absi is a total IT solutions provider engaged in technology and systems integration as well as project management services for the following business applications: Insurance Systems, Healthcare Systems and Filnet Enterprise Document Management Solutions (document imaging, electronic document management system, Cold and workflow). Present during the contract signing were (from left) Bernardine Raña, PDB Systems department head; Ana Rose Kwan, PDBIA director; Vicente Gamo, PDBIA director; Menchie Aragon, Absi president; Erlina De los Reyes, PDBIA president and general manager; Wilma De Los Santos, PDBIA underwriting staff; (standing, from left) Angela Aragon, Absi associate technical support manager; Nanette Maramot, Absi associate project manager; Laura Raymundo, BarangayOnline-Absi partner sales manager; Angelo Vicencio, Absi business unit head for insurance systems and special projects; and Josua Gohoc, Absi business unit head for enterprise document management solutions.

MCDONALD'S JOINS PACIFIC MALL

Top executives of McDonald's visit the ongoing construction of Pacific Mall to support the very first McDonald's branch in Legazpi City. The 4-level Pacific Mall which will be located in Landco Business Park is set to open by September of this year. In the picture are (from left) Kenneth S. Yang, McDonald's executive vice president; Arlene G. Magtibay, Landco Pacific Corp. vice president; Mike R. Reyes, Landco Business Park deputy business director; Jing Laiz, McDonald's real estate supervisor; Yachih Wang, leasing consultant for Pacific Mall; Joseph S. Lau, McDonald's managing director and Jay Villamiel, McDonald's real estate officer.

'Driven' series of events

THE GREEN light starts with a spontaneous mall exhibit of kart race cars and photo exhibits. There will also be a Mini 4wd Tamiya Competition. The race craze runs at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema Lobby. Second event is the Advance Screening itself today, July 5, 7 p.m. at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema 2. The adrenalin pumps up to the finish line with third event "What Drives You: The Extreme Gear Fashion Party." After the advance screening, 10:30 p.m. at Limits Entertainment Hall and Disco-Cinema level Robinsons Galleria.

BITS Clips

CA to launch Jasmineii Portal

COMPUTER Associates Philippines (CA), the leading eBusiness solutions provider, is organizing today, an executive briefing to introduce to customers, resellers and media its new Jasmineii Portal 3.0 that will enable IT organizations to develop and deploy secure Web portals rapidly, thus accelerating their business processes. The launch will be held at Shangri-La Makati's Rizal Ballroom.

Living in luxury at The Parkplace Village

THE PARKPLACE Village, a complete and livable community along Km. 23 Aguinaldo Highway at Imus, Cavite, has a luxurious clubhouse where one can enjoy the resort-type swimming pool, twin tennis court, basketball court, playgrounds and gardens, and picnic grounds. It is a creation of Earth + Style Corp., a renowned firm in property development circle for its expertise in creating elegant residential properties.

Starex-travaganza fever

WIN a Starex Millennium van only at Starmall and Metropolis Star. For every P300 worth of purchase made within a single day, you can get a raffle coupon. Aim high and get the chance to be the lucky Star of the Day and win instant prizes. Aside from the Starex van, consolations prizes will be given to 20 lucky shoppers. There will be 10 winners of P10,000 cash and 10 winners of P10,000 gift certificates. Watch our for the Grand Draw on July 7 at the Starmall. Avail of this promotion only at Starmall Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard or at Metropolis Star along South Superhighway, Alabang.

San Beda accounting reunion

THE SAN Beda College BSC-Accounting Batch 1991 will hold its reunion on July 7, Saturday, at the Gen San Seafood Patio and Bar at No. 12 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City (near Edsa). Registration starts at 5:30 p.m. For further details, members may contact Francis Albalate at 887-9429 or Vic Villano at 821-1452.

Win two cars from Tri-Chefs

TRI-CHEFS Food Corp. gives away not one, but two cars. The promo ends with a Grand Draw on July 8. The prospective winner only has to purchase P500 worth of food and beverages in any Tri-Chefs outlets—IMA Filipino Specialties, Takayama Japanese Garden Restaurant, Takayama Kyo, Bangus Greenhills and The Cake Station. The July 8 grand draw will be held at Takayama Kyo Garden Restaurant, 212 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan at 5 p.m.

El Caseron rainy season guarantee

IF the Sun fails to shine during your visit, receive a 100-percent discount on your room charges. El Caseron Premier Beach Resort in Caba, La Union, is currently offering their annual "Rainy Season Discount and Guarantee." At El Caseron, rainy season or not, you're sure to see sunshine during your stay—365 days of the year. Through August 15th, enjoy a 20-percent discount and bask in the sunshine by the sea or pool. But if Mr. Sunshine fails to appear at all, your room charges will be free. Reservations must be made at least one.

Music video workshop at Mowelfund

A WORKSHOP on music video production will be held at the Mowelfund Film Institute. Interact with the country's top directors and learn how to make high-impact music videos using the full potential of digital technology by enrolling in courses such as Directing/Editing, Cinematography, Sound Design, Production Design, Assistant Directing, and Production Management. Workshop will be held Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mowelfund Film Institute. Application starts on June 4. Register at the Mowelfund Film Institute, 66 Rosario Drive, Cubao, Quezon City or call 727-1915/723-4058. Look for Mary Ann.

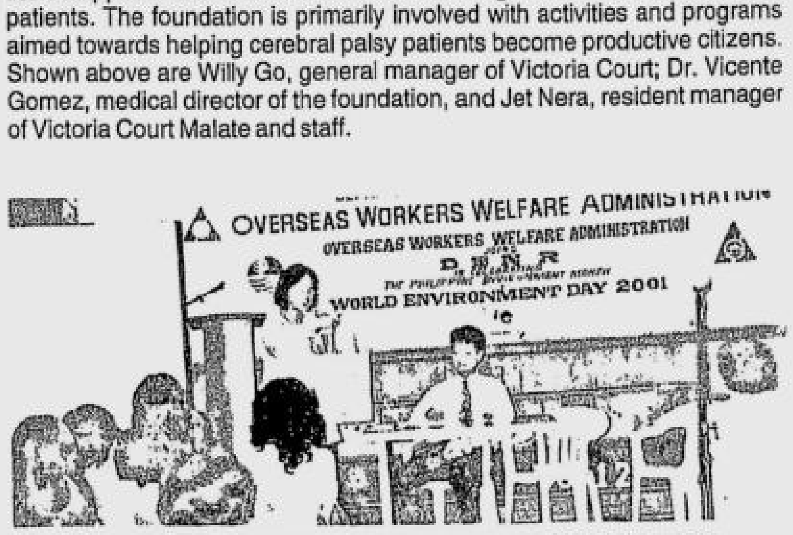
EXIT
REGISTRATION

CORPORATE GIVEAWAYS 2001 BEGINS THIS WEEK

The country's largest showcase of business gifts, premiums, promotional ideas and merchandise incentives opened yesterday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by officials and sponsors of the event. Cutting the ribbon (from left) are Adelia Majaba, president and COO of Danex Signs Inc., WorldExco president Lynne Z. Romero, former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor, guest of honor Paco Magsaysay representing Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. INQUIRER corporate relations manager Celine Madamba and Bernhard Knut Netz, executive director of the Association of Professional Congress/Exhibition Organizers and Suppliers Philippines Inc. Organized by the World Exhibitions and Conventions Inc., Corporate Giveaways 2001 features over 40 small- and medium-scale enterprises and will run from July 4 to 7 at the World Trade Center, Manila.

VICTORIA COURT DONATES AIRCONS

Victoria Court Malate recently visited the Cerebral Palsy Foundation Inc. of the Philippines and donated six airconditioning units for the foundation's patients. The foundation is primarily involved with activities and programs aimed towards helping cerebral palsy patients become productive citizens. Shown above are Willy Go, general manager of Victoria Court; Dr. Vicente Gomez, medical director of the foundation, and Jet Nera, resident manager of Victoria Court Malate and staff.


OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
D.E.N.R
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2001

OWWA OBSERVES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Youthful deputy administrator Delmer G. Cruz spearheads the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration's (OWWA) officers and staff in joining the government in the observance of the World Environment Day in corroboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Participants in the seminar are enjoined to be environment-friendly and given pointers on 3Rs (Reduce, Re-use and Recycle) of waste disposal.

The Japanese restaurant evolution

TIME was when one sole Japanese restaurant existed in Metro Manila. That was Atami, if memory serves me right, on Padre Faura. My father, the late Aguinaldo S. Gambon, astounded his friends by having a taste for raw fish.

Now there are hundreds and counting, their chefs Japanese, Filipinos trained in Japan, Filipinos trained in local restaurants, etc. They service the Japanese expatriate, the expense account type, the *masa*. Tsukiji is probably at the highest end; Wasabi the most California-Hawaiian; the market sukiyaki counter the least expensive; Ramen-tei the most like Japanese neighborhood restaurants and thus filled with families reading Japanese periodicals and comic books.

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

Japanese food is no longer a 'tourist' but a part of the Filipinos' indigenized food landscape

Ebisu Grill (146-B Jupiter St., Makati; tels. 890-8014, 890-7992, 896-6475) is certainly one of the newest, being about seven months old. It is owned and run by Paolo Y. Abaya, who learned the language and the culture when he was working for his grandfather, Alfonso Yuchengco, then ambassador to Japan.

His perceptions and personal taste have resulted in this clean-lined, contemporary restaurant that especially appeals to yuppies. It has an uncluttered look, with very powerful exhausts built into the wall panels. Thus Paolo promises an absence of smells even when the cooking is done right at one's table—although one can request that it be done at another table instead.

The menu is just as streamlined: among the starters single-entry representatives of what Filipinos love in Japanese food: ebi (prawn) tempura; age-tofu; shake (salmon) sashimi; miso soup, of course; gyoza; corn yaki, tebasaki (grilled chicken wings), tori kawa (grilled chicken skin); buta yaki (grilled pork belly), nasu furai (breaded eggplant).

The seven entrées reveal personal innovations: Ninniku Cheese Steak is seared tenderloin with garlic, topped with cream cheese; Shake no Miso Butter (seared salmon marinated in miso, topped with wasabi butter). Then Tofu Steak (tofu wrapped in beef, topped with shiitake mushrooms); Ebisu Chicken in a garlic-soy marinade; Tonkatsu; Buta Kimchee (pork mixed with vegetables in a kimchee base) and the lone noodle dish: Yaki Udon, with ground pork on a sizzling plate.

The Yakiniku grill specials are stellar: US Black Angus rib-eye; US short ribs; tenderloin; Australian lamb; chicken; tiger prawns; calamari; garlic yaki.

Desserts start with great, light *lacatan* banana fritters with vanilla ice cream; Mango Jubilee; ice cream (yes, they have green tea ice cream); and mixed fruits.

John Silva, Jonathan Best and I started with *dalandan* shakes, and felt the savors flow gently to the end.

Suzukin Japanese Restaurant (G/F Creekside Building, Amorsolo St., Makati; tel. 818-6232) is much, much older, and has seen times change. It no longer has the gyoza Ed Quimson remembered (it is in the same building as his school, the Brada Gallery) and asked for. On that day, there was no tea to be had—not green or black or even silver (the euphemism for Sanirose Orbeta's favorite after-meal hot water).

Still, the black-and-white clad waitresses yelled cheery greetings to their customers and the place was filled by many who appreciated the low prices.

Japanese food really appeals to the Filipino now, after many years of familiarity and restaurant evolution. It is no longer a "tourist," but genuinely part of our indigenized food landscape.

CHEF Fernando Fidel Aracama

A big buffet, a name short and sweet

(From page B10)

(black pepper crust, panzanelle, lemon butter) and the Sake Sea Bass (sake broth, glass noodles, shiitake).

Uva also serves vegetarian delights such as Risotto Primavera (asparagus, parmigiano, sundried tomatoes), Eggplant, Miso and Rice (sweet miso, pickled vegetables, furikake rice). If you want something spicy, you can have Xichuan Noodles (spicy peanut sauce, crisp snow peas and long beans) and Spaghetti Pomodori (tomato ragout, spinach with *kesong puti*).

For pasta and risotto entrées, try Cold Soba and Crab Salad (spiced miso vinaigrette, buckwheat noodles, kani sticks), Penne Gusto (spicy Hungarian sausages, roasted red peppers and tomatoes), Spaghetti Zola (grilled chicken, pancetta, asparagus), Seafood Risotto (shrimp, squid, gremolata), the Linguine Pobrecita (homemade chilli *tuyo*, *kesong puti*, *itlog na maalat*) and the Farfalle Bad Girl Style (tuna, marinara, capers).

An initial taste of the food arouses curiosity about the other items on the menu. The new Power Lunch menu is available daily from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. except Saturdays.

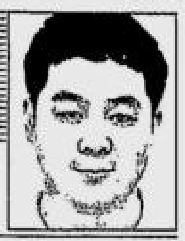
Restaurant Uva is located at Century Imperial Suites, Tomas Morato corner Timog Avenue, QC.

E-mail the author at rbapril25@yahoo.com.

Everyday food can be a discovery

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca



"YES, I met a homosexual once," he murmured, thoughtfully. "He actually seemed a decent sort of guy. Mind you, one could tell immediately that he was gay. Something about the eyes." I'm making this character up, of course, but he's obviously an amalgam of people we might have had the misfortune of meeting in the past: farmers in Southern Carolina, followers of Le Pen, or members of the Opus Dei. To this day, intelligent and educated people who were schooled in Harvard and listen to Costes CD's list homosexuality as one of the "ills" of society, while indulgently and tolerantly condescending to work with them on a daily basis.

I have chosen to begin my column with this tirade not just because I was unable to attend the Gay Pride events last Friday night (as a friend put it, "You're not gay, but I think you've pride enough to make up for it, so you're allowed to go"), but because I wanted to remind myself about the condescending attitudes of snobs and outsiders and pretenders before writing about a potentially dangerous topic: the food of the poor.

As my friends know, I have very little patience for those who moan about "our less fortunate brothers and sisters" while dithering between Blahniks at Wish; and even less for the creators and purveyors of "socially conscious art," which usually translates to canvases of squatter children, photojournalism of the malnourished and those novels in which people in the countryside are plagued by one misfortune after another ("And then after the floods, the locusts came..."). My position on social change is ambiguous at best, but I doubt if the latter is served well by hypocrisy or by producing a canon of literature dominated by despondency.

Gray rice

So it is with great trepidation that I want to write about one of the best meals I had recently. My maid had returned from the province with "special" rice, which she condescended to share with me, probably in exchange for the Porthault sheets I gave her. The uncooked rice (*bigas*) looked broken and gray; when it had steamed in the rice cooker and turned into *kanin*, it still looked broken and gray. I scooted off to the wet market at 4 a.m. and bought half a kilo of *hasa-hasa*. After gutting them and gently scraping off the last remaining scales with the back of a knife, I shallow-fried them in hot oil. Meanwhile, I had a bottle of vinegar, bought by the roadside in Batangas, into which I had stuffed an inordinate quantity of small red chilies; I poured it out into a sauce and crushed a garlic clove into it. And then I had a feast.

The *hasa-hasa* is one of my favorite fishes. You must buy small ones and then fry them, over very high heat, until they are absolutely crisp. After removing the backbone, you can eat everything, including the tail fins and the head, which is the best part. I went on a *hasa-hasa* rampage for a few days after that, experimenting with variations. The best I discovered, which I served to a gaggle of mystified guests the other night, was the plainly fried version, but with a sauce made along Thai lines.

Here is the recipe: Take a few spoonfuls of chopped garlic and fry them in a little oil until very lightly brown. Then add a handful of onions chopped very finely (but not pulverized in a food processor). Sweat over low heat until the onions are soft and translucent. Then add chopped chilies: the greater the variety, the more complex the flavor. I used a combination of fresh and dried *labuyo*, medium chilies (what the Thais call *prik chee faa*), some long green finger chilies and a dash of dried powder, for good measure. Sauté for a few minutes to amalgamate the flavors. Then add a spoonful of water, a spoonful of sugar and two of vinegar. At the last moment, throw in chopped coriander (*wansoy*), including the stem, where much of the flavor is to be found, and plucked leaves of basil (again, if you can find them, make a melange of the three types of basil for complexity). Boil it all up and serve as sauce.

Our country has diverse regional specialties that each province is proud of, and, until it has become a cliché, is only to be found in that province. Some of these specialties are organic in nature, and flourish in an area due to ecological reasons: I have written previously about the mysterious green honey of Palawan and my attempts to render it less hygroscopic (or, at least, more impervious to fermentation) by pasteurizing it, but without losing its subtle, wild flavor (you can't). The others are a matter of culture: regional dishes, methods of preservation and special marinades for barbecue. The main problem, of course, is the lack of documentation.

A friend of mine recently bought a new Mercedes S-class. The car does everything but drive itself; it has a GPS system, which can tell you how to get from Munich to Dusseldorf down to the last street turning; unfortunately, since we're in the Philippines, it can only tell you that in order to get to Dusseldorf, you must drive in a general west-ward direction. It also has a sensor that tells you how close you are to the car in front of you. My friend was gleefully explaining this to his driver, who furrowed his brow. "But sir," he pointed out, with supreme logic, "you can *see* the car in front of you."

Need to codify

Most Filipinos take the same approach to what they call "native" food: not even festive food such as *kare-kare* and *dinuguan*, or early fusion dishes such as *callos* and *putchero*; we're talking about dishes that seem so simple and obvious that one tends to think that there is no need to document and codify them. Yet just the other day I was at Rustan's supermarket in Rockwell, which is now my favorite supermarket: they have excellent variety and prices that are competitive with the wet markets; they even have stingray from time to time, a delicacy in France (*aile de raie*) which here goes for P50 a kilo. I was at the vegetable section and found a young Filipino couple standing in front of the bundles of curly green stalks. "What are these?" they asked the attendant.

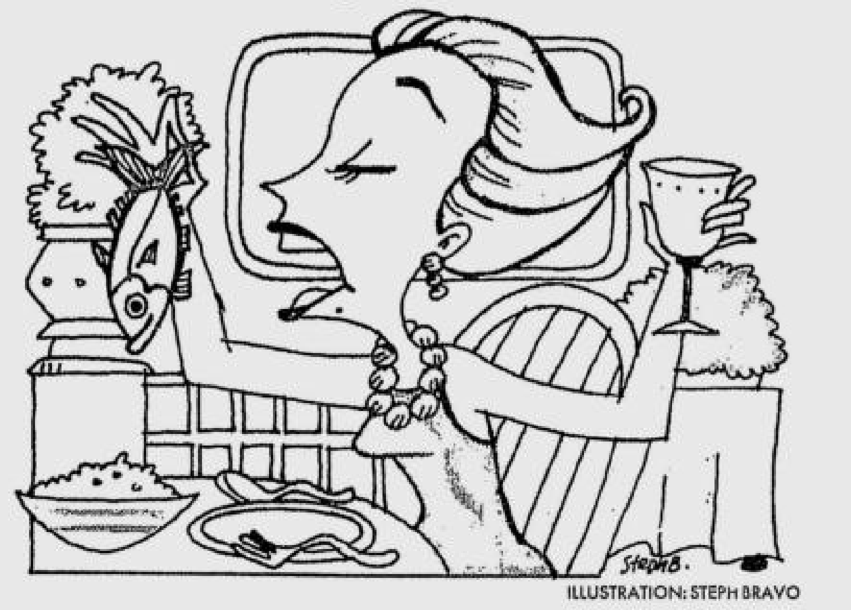


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The poor man's meal of fish and rice can become a feast for one who knows the 'cuisine de terroir' of Dordogne better than that of Pampanga

"*Ampalaya* sprouts," she answered.

"And how do you cook them?"

"I don't know, sir."

Neither of them knew, and I didn't, either. I'd learned how to cook *papaitan*, my favorite dish of goat's innards stewed in bile, by interrogating one market vendor after another and collating their variegated recipes. There at the wet market, especially the outlying ones, you still get puzzled looks from the market women when you ask what must seem to them very stupid questions. I forget which strange vegetable I was walking off with when one of them called out after me: "Oh, and don't forget to remove the leaves; they're poisonous."

For a certain class and certain generation, this knowledge is innate and commonsensical, and to analyze and codify it seems as ridiculous as writing down how to button a shirt. But for their children, who are growing up on hamburgers and instant noodles, perhaps it is a little less so. And for people like me, it's like foreign cuisine, and one, moreover, that you can't learn about by reading. I know more about the *cuisine de terroir* of Dordogne better than that of Pampanga. And aside from the pioneering efforts of Doreen Fernandez and Gilda Cordero-Fernando, there's no way of knowing more about it than by hunting out little old ladies and shaking the knowledge out of them.

Meanwhile, as for my guests of the other night upon whom I inflicted my culinary Frankensteins, they were pleasantly amazed. "I've never had fried fish like this before," one said. A lot of people probably haven't, even if it's being cooked every night in their servants' quarters. Trying to make sense of this landscape, the everyday food of the Everyman, makes one feel like a medieval cartographer, the sort who would wiggle out an imaginary coastline and write "here be dragons"; except, in our case, it would be "here be gastronomic pleasures uncharted." It's terra incognita; and, strangely enough, it's right where we live.

E-mail the author at Clinton@i-manila. com.ph

Delightful coco recipes

COCONUT milk not only enhances the flavor and taste of a wide assortment of all-time favorite dishes, including curries, seafood, vegetables, salad and rice, but it is also excellent for pudding, custards, cakes, biscuits and cold drinks (cocktails). The popular coconut milk comes in powdered form through Florence Foods Corp.'s Coco Delight Coconut Milk/Cream Powder, which is prepared from fresh mature coconut combined with stabilizer and in spray dried agglomerated powder form. No preservatives or sugar or artificial flavors were added.

When using Coco Delight Coconut Milk Powder, there is no wastage as one prepares only what is needed. Keep any leftover coconut milk powder in an airtight container.

Coco Delight Coconut Milk in can/cream powder is available in most supermarkets. Coconut milk in can is available in 400 ml while powder is in 50g, 100g, 200 g, 1 kg and 15 kg.

Pinatuyong Hipon sa Gata

½ kg shrimps
1 carrot cut into serving pieces
1 *sayote* cut into serving pieces
1 onion
4 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tsp black pepper
2 c coconut milk
Salt to taste

Coco Delight
COCO DELIGHT
COCO DELIGHT

GIVING new flavor and taste to Pinatuyong Hipon sa Gata

In a saucepan, combine coconut milk, onion, garlic, salt and pepper. Bring to boil. Add shrimps, carrot and *sayote*. Let it stand under low fire until sauce thickens. Serve hot.

Curried Chicken with Cocomilk

1 kg chicken cut into serving pieces
1 tbsp salt
Cooking oil for frying
½ c onions
1 can (400 ml) coconut milk
1-2 tsp curry powder
1 bundle *tanglad* or lemon grass
3 pcs eggplant, cut into serving pieces
½ c coconut milk (*kakang gata*)
Salt to taste
Dash of pepper

Season chicken with salt and fry in oil until half done. Set aside, add chicken, lemon grass, curry powder and coconut milk. Cook for 10 minutes then add eggplant. Cook until sauce is thick. When almost dry, add pure coconut milk. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve 6-8 persons.

Prawn Adobo in Coconut Milk

Marinade:
125 ml (½ c) white sugar
60 ml (¼ c) water
1/8 tsp ground black pepper
1 tbsp finely minced garlic
Fish sauce (*patis*) to taste
500 g large fresh prawn in shell
1 pack (50 g) coconut milk powder
3 garlic cloves, slivered and fried

In a medium-sized stockpot, prepare the marinade by combining the ingredients. Add the prawns and let stand for one hour.

Remove the prawns and boil the marinade in the same pot, with the lid removed, for five minutes. Add coconut milk (dissolve in water) stir and allow the sauce to thicken; this takes about 15 minutes. Once the sauce thickens, add the prawns. Bring to a boil and then remove from heat. Serve hot, garnished with fried garlic. Serves 2.

Cook and learn, save and earn

ARE you a homemaker trying your best to prepare delicious, filling meals that won't break the budget? Or are you a caterer striving hard to improve your dishes and at the same time reduce expenses? Take a course at the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center and learn how to maximize value without compromising taste.

Master the classics of Filipino cuisine with the Sarap Pinoy Meals course. Be a whiz at cooking up these all-time favorites such as Guinataang Lumpia, Chicken à la Peking Duck, Itlog ng Pugo sa Dahon ng Gabi, Lechon Manok sa Kawali, Bangus Cordon Bleu, Seafood Kare-Kare, Rellenong Gulay and Inihaw na Tokwa. The class is on July 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Transform yourself into an expert Filipino chef for only P750.

Learn how to make your own rice cakes and native delicacies with our course on *kakanin*. Class is on July 7, 1:30-5 p.m.

Call the Maya Kitchen at 892-1185 or 892-5011.

Center For Culinary Arts, Manila
Continuing Education Program
JULY

Restaurant Service Operation	July 12, 13, 14	1pm-7pm	P4,800
-Learn the importance of excellent service to a successful restaurant and perform skills in setting tables, taking orders and serving food in correct and effective ways.			
Sushi and Sashimi	July 14	9am-2pm	P1,700
-Grab your chopsticks and sushi mats as you roll your own sushi. Learn to make authentic sushi and ways of preparing other Japanese favorites in this popular hands-on class.			
International Entrees for Caterers	July 14	1pm-5pm	P1,000
- New exciting tastes and flavors will come your way as you unravel different cuisines in this cooking demo course with CCA, Manila and McCormick.			
Italian Cuisine	July 14	9am-2pm	P1,700
-*Facciamo La Cucina Italiana!* Indulge your palate with the flavors of Italian dishes! Join us and experience the taste of Italy's classic favorites on a hands-on course.			
Fundamentals of Professional Baking	July 14-15,20,22	10am-3pm	P4,400
-Gain a solid understanding of the arts and science of baking. This course deals with the theories and formulations that equip students with the necessary knowledge of a patissier. Learn different cake mixing methods, cake finishing and a lot more!			
Chinese Cuisine	July 20	9am-2pm	P1,700
-Learn the basics of Chinese cooking with much fun and enthusiasm on this hands-on class.			
Tarts, Bars, Cookies Galore	July 20	10am-3pm	P1,500
-Sweets for school days. Learn how to prepare tarts, bars, and cookies. And decorate them with colorful icing; a special treat for your kids.			
Pasta Mastersclass	July 28	1pm-5pm	P1,000
-There is more to pasta than spaghetti! CCA, Manila and San Remo are here to show you on this cooking demo course about the different innovative recipes that would give you new meaning to the word pasta.			
Specialty Desserts	July 28	10am-3pm	P1,500
-Mmmm... learn the secrets of sumptuous desserts and sweet treats from an extraordinary baker			

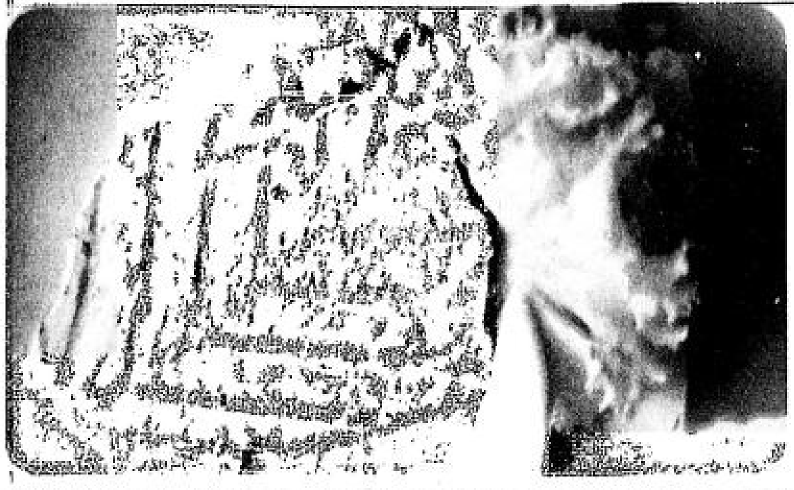
Reservation and payments should be made at least 4 days before the start of the course
Fee includes: certificate, recipes and ingredients
287 Katipunan Ave.,Loyola Heights Q.C.
Tel No.:426-4841/ 426-4837/ 426-4836

FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR EMAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH

LIFESTYLE

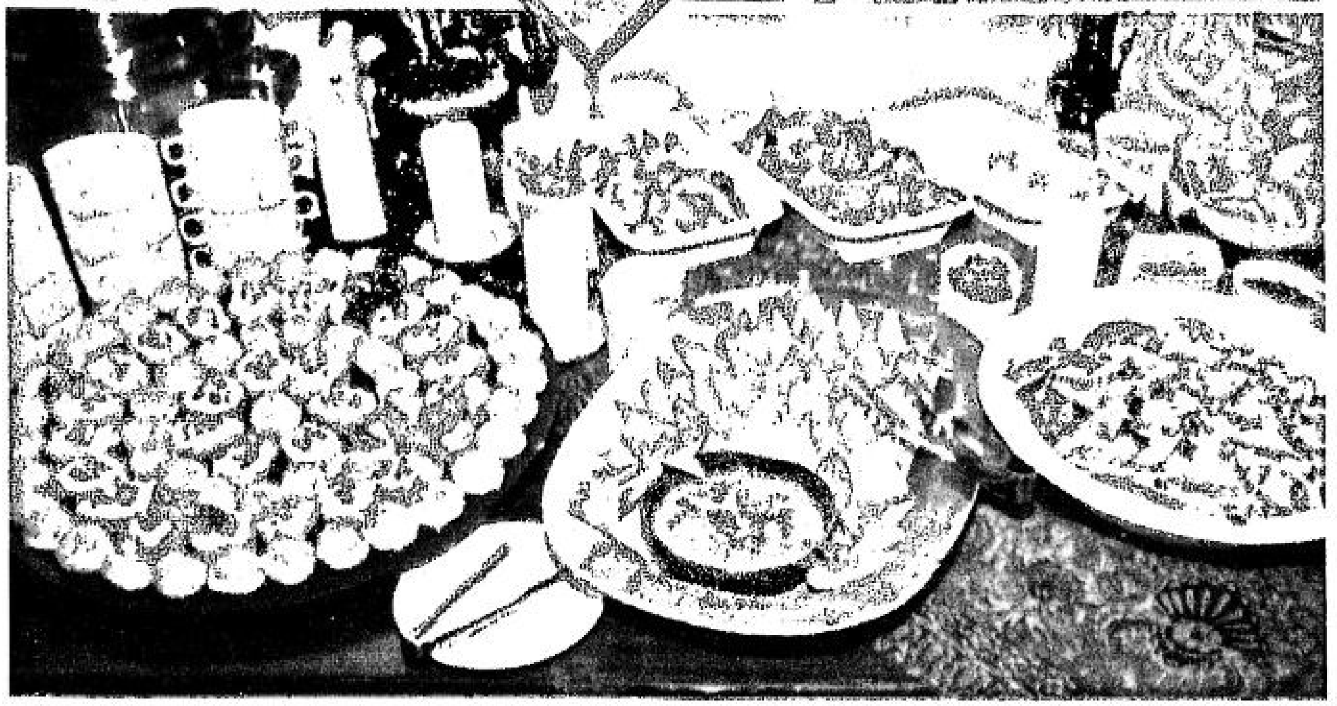
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

P20 Baon Buddies
BAONS:
5 Munchkins
and regular Coke



A COMPLIMENTARY buffet (soups, salads and desserts)

YELLOW Fin Tuna



A big buffet, a name short and sweet

BY BELLE BONDOC
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

YOU will hardly notice the place and you can hardly read the restaurant's name. Wedged between a suite and a bank, Restaurant Uva (tel. 929-1570) on Tomas Morato corner Timog Avenue in Quezon City is quite small. If you blink, you might miss it. But once you've entered this cozy and elegant place, you begin to ask yourself what took you so long to actually notice it.

Uva, which is Latin for "grape," has been operating for almost two years now and continues to gain popularity among diners who have adventurous tastes. Apparently, the restaurant has lured a steady clientele of professionals, expats as well as media people and show-biz personalities, particularly those who work at the two giant networks, ABS-CBN on Mother Ignacia Avenue and GMA 7 on Timog Avenue.

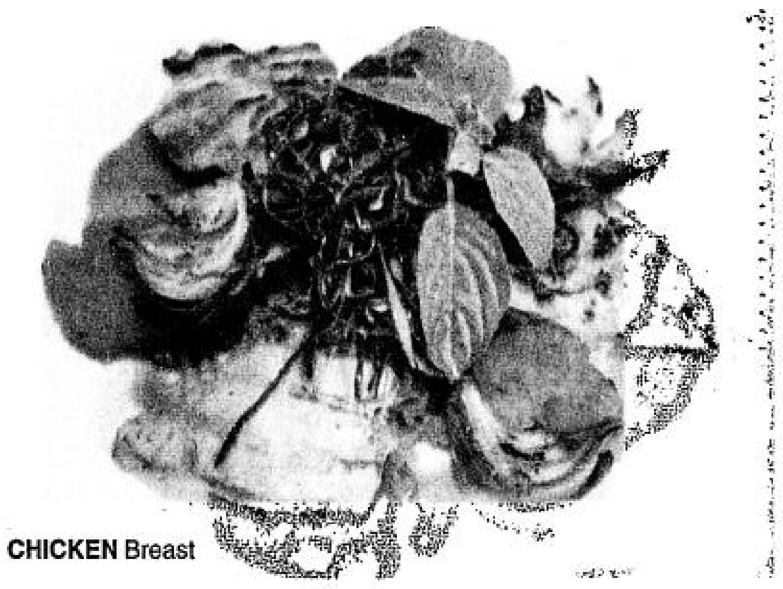
Uva exemplifies elegance and hospitable ambience. With its embellishments on high ceilings and unique window treatments, the interior design reflects contemporary references to Pacific Rim and Asian traditions. On the walls hang colorful artworks, which add a more sophisticated look. Near the buffet table is the exhibition kitchen where the constant flow of energy permeates the expansive and airy dining room. The kitchen looks clean and amazingly efficient.

Not only that, it exudes a relaxing ambience and offers excellent service and, most importantly, quality food.

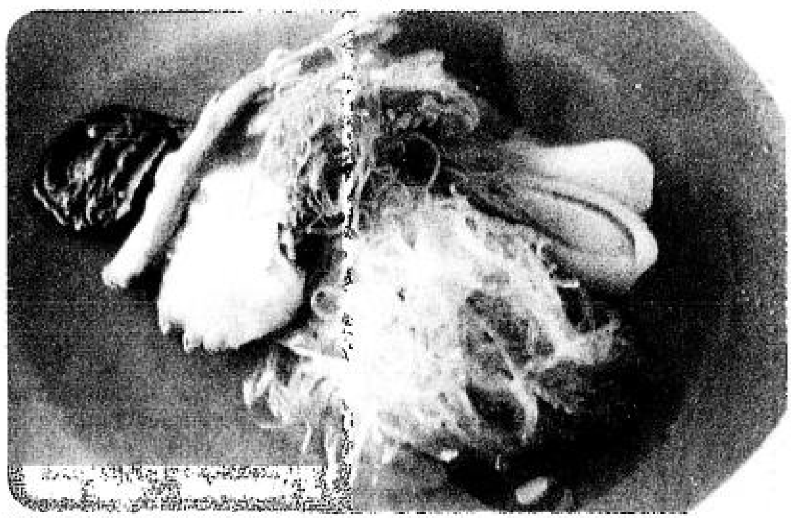
Gastronomic treats

Those who have experienced Uva's cuisine well understand that the restaurant is all about pleasing textures and bold flavors—decorative as they are delicious. The Uva cuisine has been defined by many as Euro-Asian and new Filipino. "It's really Filipino in taste. In fact, we have a lot of *sawsawan* to add flavor to a dish," says executive chef Fernando Fidel Aracama. "Whatever they call it, we still prefer to describe our food as evolving. It's an evolution of cuisines and tastes," he adds.

Fernando oversees a menu that changes from time to time and handles kitchen operations. He reveals that a certain dish never remains the same. So Fernando, together with his kitchen staff, continues to improve each dish. Such transformations are based on the following: seasonal harvests of product, customer preferences and sometimes "culinary fancy."



CHICKEN Breast



COLD Soba and Crab Salad

It is the restaurant's commitment to use the finest ingredients, particularly the local ones.

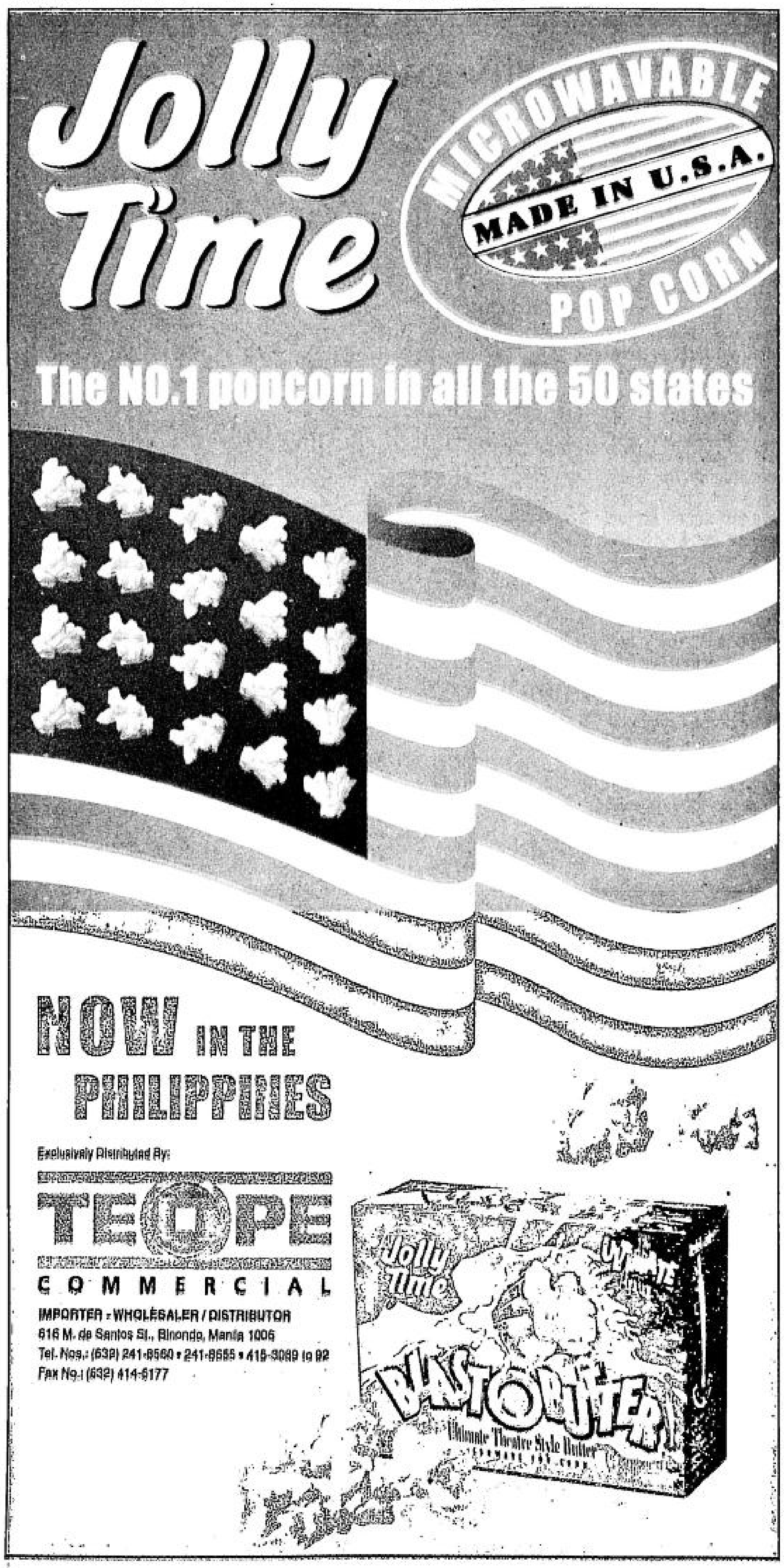
Value items

Restaurant Uva recently introduced a new set of lunch menu called the Power Lunch. "We've decided to come up with a special buffet offering to give our valued customers a sort of 'value' for their money," says Fernando. The lunch menu consists of a generous complimentary buffet of soups, salads and appetizers. This set buffet comes with every order of main course from the new set menu. It's like a "buy one, eat all you want" promo. If you're a vegetarian, you can have hearty soups like spinach, pumpkin and green pea and tomato cream. The salad bar consists of locally grown hydroponics greens, condiments with salad dressings and vinaigrettes. Appetizers include a bowl of nacho chips with accompanying dips, plus Smoked Salmon, Peppered Tangigue, bruschettas, crostinis, pasta and noodle salads and fresh fruits. The sweet-toothed will surely love the diner's desserts. This offer comes with the popular "bottomless" drink: brewed iced citrus tea.

Main courses are priced from P265 and up. The meat and chicken entrées (mostly grilled items) include Chicken Breast (honey-cumin marinade with grilled vegetables), one of its bestsellers, which is often within a ring of rice; Salpicao (beef tenderloin, garlic chips and vegetables) and Porkloin (parmesan-rosemary crust, pesto pasta and sauce Provençal). Among the fish entrées, the favorite is the classic Miso Sea Bass (miso marinade with soba noodles, green mango), Norwegian Salmon (*taba ng talangka* sauce, cabbage salad with white rice), the chef's highly recommended Yellow Fin Tuna

A BIG / p.B9

Uva serves Euro-Asian cuisine but chef Fernando Aracama insists that it's more of an evolution of tastes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